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THE JERUSALEM POST

Vol. LII, No. 15791 Sunday, December 23, 1984 • Kislev 29, 5745 • Rabi Awwal 30, 1405 IS280

THE JERUSALEM POST
INTERNATIONAL EDITION

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Moda'i, Nissim float plan to save Ata

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A new plan to save Ata will be submitted to the cabinet today by Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i and Justice Minister Moshe Nissim. This follows the decision by the textile firm's works committee last night to postpone the demonstration in front of the Prime Minister's Office and a hunger strike of veteran workers planned for today.

Moda'i and Nissim will propose to run the company using government funds for the next 12 months or until a buyer is found. The two ministers have also proposed appointing Eliezer Peleg, an industrialist and former general manager of the Delta textile firm, to manage Ata.

The works committee met Peleg last night to discuss the proposals. Moda'i and Nissim are to raise their proposals in the cabinet meeting today.

The proposals followed a meeting of works committee representatives and senior Haifa Labour Council officials with Moda'i on Friday afternoon.

Labour Council secretary Moshe Wertman said the minister had informed him that he would do all he could to ensure Ata's continued operation after December 31, the date set by the district court here for the firm's closure.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

Egypt not weighing summit with Israel

CAIRO (AP). — Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid said that Egypt is not considering a summit between President Hosni Mubarak and Prime Minister Shimon Peres, the daily *Al-Ahram* reported yesterday.

Meguid spoke to reporters in Sana'a, North Yemen, where he is attending a meeting of foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization.

Meguid also denied that Egypt and Israel were holding secret talks on Taba, near Eilat, over which both countries claim sovereignty.

Meguid said that Israel was making some attempt to resolve the Taba issue, but added that no results had yet come out of these attempts.

"There is no truth about secret talks in Geneva on the Taba issue, and Taba remains the most important condition Egypt has presented before its ambassador is returned to Tel Aviv," he added.

Meguid said Egypt stands firmly behind its commitment to the 1978 Camp David Accords, but said Egypt refused some Israeli interpretations of the accords.

Libya's Foreign Minister Ali Abdel-Salam al-Tureiki said yesterday that Egypt would be welcome in the Arab and Islamic fold if it renounced the Camp David agreement.

Speaking at a news conference in Sana'a, he said "We welcome Egypt to the Arab and Islamic fold when it liberates itself from the Camp David nightmare."

MINTOFF RESIGNS

VALETTA (AP). — Malta's Prime Minister Dom Mintoff officially announced his resignation last night. He has been prime minister since 1971. Mintoff made his announcement in a parliamentary speech.

Singapore premier sweeps the polls

SINGAPORE (AP). — Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew's People's Action Party held all but two of the 79 seats in parliament after yesterday's general election. (See Page 4) —

IDF supporter murdered in Sidon

Jerusalem Post Reporter

A local resident was shot to death in Sidon yesterday afternoon when gunmen fired at him from a passing car. Israel Defence Forces sources reported.

The victim was known to have cooperated with the IDF and spoken out in its support according to the sources. He was the 13th reputed supporter of the IDF to be killed in South Lebanon in the last few months.



Sergei Sokolov (AP)

Kremlin names new defence minister

MOSCOW (AP). — Marshal Sergei Sokolov has been appointed Soviet defence minister, to succeed the late Dmitri Ustinov, the official news agency Tass announced yesterday.

Sokolov, 73, has been first deputy defence minister since 1967 and a full member of the Communist Party Central Committee since 1968.

Ustinov, 76, died last Thursday and is to be buried at the Kremlin Wall in a Red Square funeral tomorrow. (See page 4).

Israeli banking at the crossroads (2)

When rapid expansion was world-wide

IN ORDER to properly understand what is wrong with the Israeli banking system, and in order to be able to hold a rational debate over what needs to be put right and how best to go about that task, it is vital to see things in a broader context.

This is particularly true when analyzing the more extreme complaints made about the banks. It has already been noted that these fall into two main headings: That the banks are a state unto themselves, and no one can tell them nay to anything they want; and that the banks are passive agents with no will of their own, who do the government's bidding and

have long been in a state of de facto nationalisation.

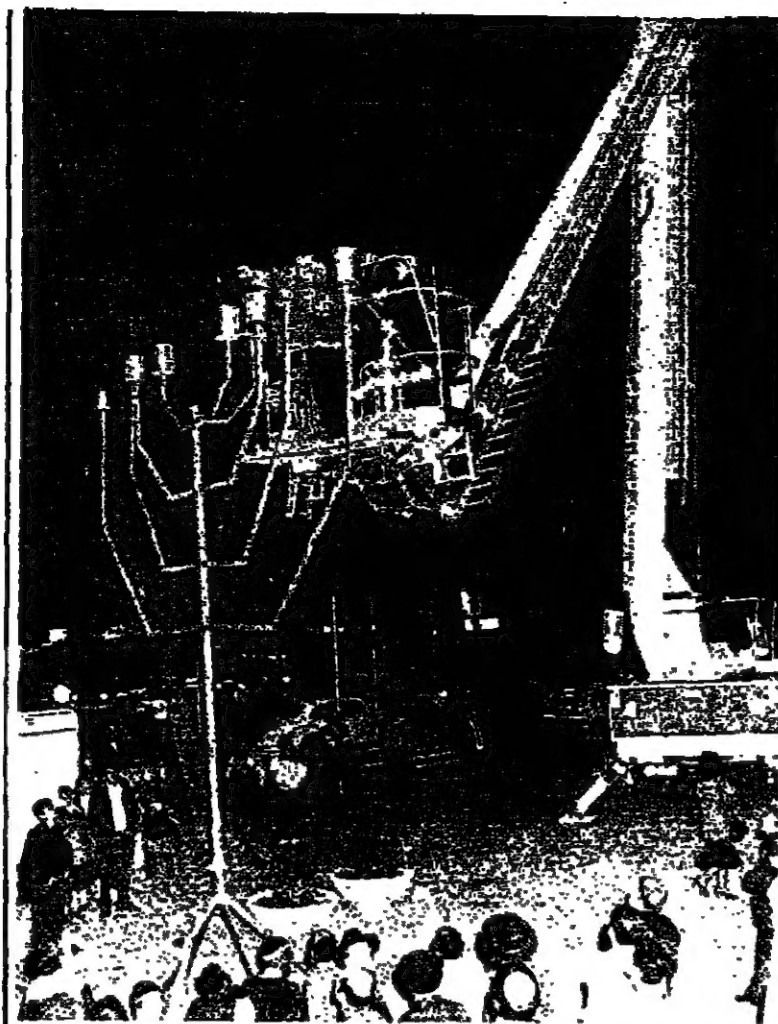
These kinds of accusations are often made on the assumption that the banks, and indeed the whole economy, operate in a self-contained world. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Israeli economy, as is well-known, is characterised by its extreme openness to worldwide trends. Since both imports and exports total over half the Gross National Product this could hardly be otherwise. The banking industry is one of the most internationally-oriented in the economy, and therefore the world economy has even more influence on it than on the economy generally.

Thus, when examining how the banks got to be where they are, it is first necessary to review basic trends in the international banking system, to which Israel's banks were subject.

The 1970s were a period of tremendous expansion in the world banking system, with the larger banks seeking to grow beyond their home bases and take part in the burgeoning sector of international finance. This was a natural development in itself, following on the unprecedented development of world trade and economic growth in the decades after the Second World War.

But the pattern of steady growth was shattered by the events of 1973/



Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek lights Hanukkah candles in front of the Knesset department store in the capital's centre last night. With Kollek on the crane are Habad rabbis who organize candle-lighting ceremonies throughout the festival. (Rahamin Yisraeli)

'IDF' near Damascus—a nightmare for Syria

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The presence of the Israel Defence Forces only 15 kilometres from Damascus is a strategic nightmare for the Syrians, according to Tattal Amos Gilboa, who heads Israel's delegation to the military talks in Nakoura. "Before the talks started, my personal evaluation was that the Syrians would give Israel some political concessions in return for removal of that threat," he said.

But the Syrians are unwilling to permit Israel any political gain from the Lebanese War and want its unconditional withdrawal to the international boundary line. Gilboa said.

"Perhaps my original reading of the situation was wrong," Gilboa said. "But more likely, the events of the past few months have forced the Syrians to harden their stance."

Among these events he cited PLO leader Yasser Arafat's success in holding the Palestine National Conference in Amman, the resumption of diplomatic relations between Jordan and Egypt and the renewal of diplomatic ties between the U.S. and Iraq—all of which have isolated Syria in the Arab world. This week's convention of Syria's ruling Baath Party, where Assad's successor may be formally chosen, also makes the Syrians feel they must get tough.

Asked why the Syrians are afraid of a unilateral Israeli withdrawal, Gilboa said they fear the upheaval in South Lebanon which would inevitably result.

Car bomb kills 6, wounds 30 in Druse school near Beirut

BEIRUT. — A car bomb killed six people and injured 30 at a Druse village school near Beirut on Friday, sparking artillery battles which sent shells crashing into Christian areas in and around the capital, radio stations reported.

The Druse radio station said 19 children were among those wounded when a bomb planted in a green Mercedes exploded at Ras al-Mata in the Syrian-controlled mountain region 15 kilometres east of Beirut. It was the fourth major attack on Druse targets in Lebanon in three weeks.

Yesterday, Lebanese leaders worked on a Syrian-backed security plan for the hills south of Beirut where artillery battles have raged almost every day for the past month. An official source said envoys on Friday night brought President Amin Gemayel a verbal message from Syrian leader Hafez Assad expressing renewed support for the plan, seen here as vital for a negotiated end to Israel's occupation of South Lebanon.

A police statement said two civilians were killed and 10 injured in the artillery duels in the hills above Beirut after Friday's car bombing.

They confirmed initial reports that the Mercedes which blew up the school had been packed with 200 kilograms of explosives.

The Progressive Socialist Party of Druse opposition leader Walid Jumblatt accused government intelligence agencies of engineering the bombing and two previous anti-Druse car bomb attacks in the past three weeks.

Announcement seen as pressure on Israel U.S. defers extra aid pending more austerity

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — Israeli officials yesterday expressed disappointment over the Reagan administration's announcement that it was deferring any emergency supplementary aid for Israel until more substantive economic austerity measures are enacted.

But Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i, after speaking by telephone to Israel's economic delegation head Emmanuel Sharon, denied that the U.S. had rejected the aid request. He would not go into the details of the U.S. response.

Israel has been seeking an additional \$800 million in economic grants as part of the already passed 1985 fiscal year foreign aid bill. That bill contained \$2.6 billion in combined economic and military aid for Israel.

Beyond the extra \$800m, Israel has also been seeking a \$4.1b. economic and military aid programme in the 1986 budget, which President Reagan must submit to Congress in late January or early February.

On Friday, the State Department issued a public statement that it was postponing any final decision on the supplementary request until Israel takes more far-reaching steps to overcome its economic crisis.

"The U.S. is going to defer the decision on this pending the adoption of an effective Israeli stabilization programme and a determination of the utility of such U.S. assistance in supporting such a programme," a spokesman told reporters. "So we will wait a little and see."

The spokesman indicated that the administration would increase the level of military assistance to Israel, although he did not release any figures. He said the U.S. was determined "to ensure Israel's continued security and to maintain its qualitative edge, as has been our position."

Israeli officials had expected the administration to notify them officially of its decision on the military aid programme during last week's separate economic and military aid discussions in Washington. Israel pressed hard for increases during those two days of discussions.

Israel is seeking \$2.2b. in military aid — as opposed to the \$1.4b. appropriated in the 1985 bill. All those sums are in the form of outright grants.

U.S. and Israeli officials agreed that the administration was not going to meet the full Israeli military request. The final figure, they said, would probably be "in the neighbourhood" of \$1.8b.

The State and Defence Departments are said to be in agreement on that approximate level, although officials at the office of management and budget and in the White House are said to be reluctant to provide any increase, given the budget cutting in all sorts of other U.S. programmes, including those in the military and domestic sectors.

Israeli officials were not totally

surprised by the delay in any final decision on the \$800m. 1985 supplementary request. The same message was conveyed several times to Israeli officials in recent weeks.

It was made clear to Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir by Secretary of State George Shultz on December 9, for example, that Washington was disappointed in the slow pace of Israel's economic recovery programme. It was also conveyed to the Israeli economic delegation, headed by Treasury Director-General Sharon, last week.

What did surprise the Israeli officials was the State Department's decision to issue such a public announcement on Friday — a decision apparently aimed at increasing the pressure on Israel to come to grips with what Washington sees as a very severe economic mess.

The administration was careful not to completely rule out some supplementary request later next year. Under U.S. law, the administration could initiate such a request any time during the 1985 fiscal year, which ends on October 1, 1985. But U.S. officials said Israel must first enact more wide-reaching austerity and reform measures.

Without such steps, U.S. officials said, increased aid for Israel would be a "waste" and would not really help Israel cope with its long-term problems.

According to Israeli officials, the Americans focussed their criticism on two specific areas during the

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

Suspected killer of Israeli diplomat held in Rome

Jerusalem Post Staff and Agencies

ROME. — Police have arrested a Lebanese woman suspected of murdering Israeli diplomat Ya'acov Bar-Simantov in Paris in April 1982.

Josephine Abdo Sarkis, 26, was arrested at Rome's Leonardo Da Vinci Airport shortly after she stepped out of an aeroplane from Amman, Jordan, on Wednesday.

Bar-Simantov's son Avi may be able to identify Sarkis since he witnessed the murder, and chased after

the short woman who killed his father. He was forced to abandon the chase when the woman threatened him with her pistol.

Sarkis is allegedly a leader of the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction, one of the principal Middle East terrorist groups, according to Italian police. They added that the group has claimed responsibility for several attacks on U.S. and Israeli targets in France.

The Italian news agency Ansa reported late on Thursday night that prosecutor Domenico Sica was questioning Sarkis about last February's assassination of Leamon Hunt. Hunt, the director-general of the Multinational Force and Observers that patrols the Sinai, was gunned down outside his home in northern Rome.

Sarkis's arrest resulted from the same Italian-French police cooperation that led to the arrest in Paris last week of Abdullah Ibrahim, one of the leaders of a special operations unit of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

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FRANKFURT	1 38	13 35	Cloudy
GENEVA	1 38	13 35	Cloudy
JOHANNESBURG	11 32	13 35	Cloudy
LONDON	13 29	31 35	Clear
LONDON	13 29	31 35	Clear
MADRID	13 29	31 35	Clear
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PARIS	13 29	31 35	Clear
SAO PAULO	13 29	31 35	Clear
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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy, rain possible towards evening.

	Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
	Humidity	Min-Max	Min-Max
Jerusalem	38	8-15	15
Golan	50	6-12	13
Nahariya	50	6-12	13
Safed	47	7-12	13
Haifa Port	40	14-19	20
Tiberias	33	12-20	21
Nazareth	38	8-15	16
Afula	43	13-19	20
Shomron	38	8-15	14
Tel Aviv	43	13-23	23
B-G Airport	45	15-24	24
Jericho	44	6-12	24
Gaza	62	15-23	23
Beersheba	33	12-21	20
Eilat	33	15-23	22

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The visiting delegation of American Professors for Peace were guests at Haifa City Hall on Friday where they were received by Mayor Arye Gurel.

The head of the Jewish Agency Aliya Department, Haim Abaron, yesterday opened an exhibition of works by eight new immigrants - seven from the Soviet Union, and one from South Africa - at the Shulamit Fine Arts Gallery in Tel Aviv.

Italian defence minister to come here Wednesday

ROME (Reuters). - Italian Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini is to visit Israel from December 26 to 30, and will meet Italian troops in the Unifil contingent in South Lebanon, the defence ministry said yesterday. Spadolini is to meet President Chaim Herzog, Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and will also visit defence industry factories.

First fortnightly index to be issued this week

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Estimates of retail price increases for the first two weeks of December are to be published today or tomorrow by the Central Bureau of Statistics. This will be the first publication of such fortnightly statistics. The estimates will be based on about half the items included in the monthly Consumer Price Index calculations, including fruit, clothing and furniture.

New U.S. unit to Sinai
WASHINGTON (Reuters). - A fresh contingent of U.S. troops will be assigned to the Multinational Force and Observers in the Sinai next month, replacing units which have been there since August, the Pentagon said on Friday.

CONFERENCE. - Some 200 scholars from nine countries are to meet today in the Second International Congress for the Study of Sephardi and Oriental Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

SCHOLARSHIPS. - \$500,000 will be distributed today to 26 students at yeshiva high schools by Haim and Hanna Asulin in memory of their two sons who fell in action.

ATA PLAN

(Continued from Page One)

Nissim was called in to try to resolve the legal problems concerned with the district court's ruling that Ata must close at the end of the month.

The High Court of Justice on Friday rejected an application by the workers for an order nisi against the court's decision.

Five Ata employees were taken to the Rambam Hospital here on Friday - three of them suffering from suspected heart attacks and two from exhaustion. A spokesman for the Ata works committee blamed the tension and uncertainty over the company's future for the poor health of the employees.

The Head of the Civil Administration in Judea and Samaria and his staff extend their

Best Wishes to the Christian Community in Judea and Samaria on the occasion of Christmas.

HOME NEWS

Levy may query freeze on couples' mortgages

Post Economic Reporter
Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i's temporary freeze on granting mortgages to young couples and other eligible groups may be queried by Housing Minister David Levy at today's cabinet meeting, Housing Ministry sources said yesterday. Moda'i decided on Thursday to cease giving these mortgages until January 1. He took the step following the 65 per cent increase in mortgage requests during the first two

weeks of December, as compared with November.

The jump was due to Levy's increasing ministry mortgages by 60 per cent early in December.

The sources termed Moda'i's decision arbitrary.

The government, the Treasury and the Housing Ministry face the danger of numerous legal suits by people who signed contracts on the basis of the mortgage increases, the sources said.

'Time' surprises judge by resting case in Sharon suit

By WALTER RUBY
Jerusalem Post Correspondent
NEW YORK. - Lawyers for Time magazine surprised Judge Abraham Sofaer and attorneys for Ariel Sharon by announcing late last week that they were resting their case in the \$50 million libel suit brought by Sharon against the magazine.

Sofaer has adjourned the trial for the holiday period and Sharon has returned to Israel. The trial is set to resume on January 2, and Sharon has said he will be back in the courtroom then.

Time's lawyers' announcement came only a few hours after Sharon had completed his case - and after they had applied for and received Sofaer's permission to call to the witness stand former U.S. State Department official Lawrence Saunders and Ellen Siegel, an American Jewish nurse with pro-Palestinian sympathies who was in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Beirut at the time of the massacre in September 1982. Yet after a lunch break, Time lawyer Paul Saunders told the court that Time had decided to rest its case on the principle of "quitting when we are ahead."

Sharon's chief attorney Milton Gould quickly responded: "Time quit because they never had a case."

Asked if he was surprised by Time's decision not to call witnesses, Gould said, "I was not particularly surprised that they rested their case, since they obviously did not have one to begin with. It did surprise me, however, that after fighting to convince the judge to allow testimony (by Saunders and Siegel) they suddenly decided not to go forward with examination of these witnesses. Gould strongly criticized the gov-

ernment of Israel for refusing to allow attorneys for Time and Sharon to have access to Appendix B of the Kahan Commission report on the massacre and other secret documents.

Speaking to The Jerusalem Post after the adjournment of the trial, Gould said that, contrary to intimations by Time representatives, the Israeli government "has not helped Sharon one goddamn bit." He added: "We haven't gotten one thing we have asked for from the Israeli government. All that seems to be going on there is a lot of in-fighting." Gould declined to specify what he meant by in-fighting.

Meanwhile, Adam Gilbert, a member of Shea and Gould who has been active in the Sharon case said he was optimistic that with Sharon in Israel, the minister might be able to change the cabinet's position that only Kahan should be allowed to review classified documents relating to the trial.

According to Gilbert, "Sharon will be on the scene in Israel and he might be able to change a few minds in the government. I am sure Sharon will try to do exactly that."

In reply to a question, Gould said he felt the Kahan Commission decision that Sharon was indirectly responsible for the massacre was a "fair decision," but added, "the Kahan Commission said that Sharon made a mistake. It did not say, as Time did, that he planned murder...I have also made mistakes in my life. I have run red lights." Asked if the comparison was appropriate, Gould said only, "I said he made a mistake. That does not make him a criminal."



Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon and his wife Lily arrive in Israel on Friday from New York.

'Vagrants and hippies' evicted from Taba

EILAT (Itim). - Police and workers from the city's sanitation department on Friday evicted "hippies" and "vagrants" who were camping

in Taba, south of the town. Using tractors, authorities leveled 25 make-shift homes, huts and tents.

U.S. DEFERS

(Continued from Page One)

discussions last week. Firstly, they said, Israel must implement "very quickly" more massive budget cuts. In this regard, the Americans noted that the Israeli government may have "announced" a \$1.4b. budget cut, but only \$300m-\$400m. has actually been cut. This is unacceptable to the administration.

Secondly, the Americans added, Israel must stop allowing its central bank to continue printing vast amounts of shekels - a step which

merely fuels runaway inflation. The central bank, they said, must have "greater independence."

The U.S. has been pressing Israel to enact several serious "monetary reforms," including the possible dollarization of the Israeli economy.

Israeli officials, during the meetings in Washington as well as in their 70-page "white paper" justifying the record and request submitted to the administration last week, argued that a more rapid and painful economic austerity programme would produce unacceptable social dislocations, including increased unemployment and emigration.

They appealed to Washington to be more sensitive to these Israeli considerations.

But at a time of across-the-board budget cutting in the U.S. Israel's continued inclination to postpone taking steps considered vital by the Americans has resulted in growing impatience here with these considerations.



British Ambassador William Squire and his wife Sarah wrap Christmas presents with their children, Jamie, 7 and Emma, 5, in their Ramat Gan home.

Police to check allegations of Bank Hapoalim violations

Allegations by MK Mordechai Virshubski that Bank Hapoalim committed foreign currency violations involving tens of millions of dollars were referred by the attorney general's office on Friday for police examination.

Three weeks ago Virshubski (Shinui) submitted to Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir material that he claimed has raised suspicions that the bank indirectly made illegal foreign currency loans to borrowers in Israel. Zamir gave the material to his deputy, Yoram Bar-Sela, who passed it to the police on Friday.

Virshubski claimed that the material he gave Zamir showed that the loans were made to borrowers in Israel through dummy companies registered by the bank abroad.

Virshubski said that he has learned from reliable sources that other banks are suspected of having committed similar offences. He said that the material he gave Zamir had already been in the hands of the Bank of Israel and the Treasury, but that they had not acted on it.

Bank Hapoalim has denied the allegations.

Arabs plow up road they say is illegal

By MICHAEL EILAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A group of Palestinian farmers from Jib, north of Jerusalem, on Friday plowed up a road that they claimed had been illegally laid on a Jib farmer's land, the man's attorney said last night.

The farmer, Abdullah Salman Khalaseh, also filed a complaint of criminal trespass with the Ramallah police against the Moresheet Binyamin company, which he said laid the road through his land to a new development just south of the Givat Ze'ev settlement.

Knesset Member Mordechai Bar-

On, of the Citizens Rights Movement, was present on the scene on Friday morning, but left before the farmers got to work on Khalaseh's seven-dunam plot, attorney Jonathan Kuttab said.

He added that Israel Defence Forces soldiers and police from Ramallah arrived after the work started, but did not intervene. Khalaseh plans to ask a Ramallah court for a restraining order against Moresheet Binyamin. In the meantime, Ramallah police have apparently allowed both the company and the farmers to work on the same plot.

Kiryat Arba assails settlement delay

HEBRON (Itim). - The Kiryat Arba Local Council and the Association for the Re-establishment of Jewish Settlement in Hebron complained to the government on Friday about the delay in building a settlement at the town's Tel Rumeida.

On Thursday, the Israel Defence Forces dismantled foundations that Kiryat Arba residents had laid down for caravan homes at Tel Rumeida, which is near the old Jewish cemetery here.

The government has not approved settlement at the site, where several Kiryat Arba families have illegally lived in caravans since last summer.

The Kiryat Arba settlers insist that the land at Tel Rumeida - two lots totalling six-and-a-half dunams - is owned by Jews and that the state has no right to interfere in their use of it.

Six die and 62 injured on roads last week

Six people died and 62 were seriously injured in road accidents throughout the country last week.

Among the dead were three pedestrians, one of them a minor. There were 47 serious road accidents last week, and 51 of those seriously injured in them were pedestrians.

Traffic inspectors last week stopped a random sample of 960 cars and

found that 20 per cent had dangerously worn out or improperly balanced tyres. The owners of these cars were handed high fines.

The director of the road safety administration, Moshe Amirav, has said that worn tyres are behind 50 per cent of all winter road accidents caused by mechanical malfunctioning. (Itim)

Labour MK submits motion for unilateral IDF pullback

Post Diplomatic Correspondent
Labour Knesset Member Simcha Dinitz has submitted a motion for the agenda calling for a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon.

Dinitz writes in his motion that with the Nakoura talks deadlocked and "Lebanon and Syria refusing to reach any accord," Israel should act unilaterally "to ensure a security zone along our northern border and to enable the IDF to leave Lebanon."

Dinitz is known for his hawkish position within the Labour Party. He told The Jerusalem Post last night that he hoped his motion would show the Lebanese that support in Israel for a unilateral pullback - and unilateral security arrangements - was very broad and by no means confined to the fringes of the political establishment.

Failing any Lebanese response, Dinitz hoped the government would avail itself of the opportunity provided by his Knesset motion to mobilize broad parliamentary support for a policy of unilateral action in South Lebanon.

Dinitz said he had taken his parliamentary initiative after briefings with civilian and military policymakers. "The present situation," he said, "serves Syrian interests. Israel is keeping the inter-communal balance in Lebanon while Syria is in effect running the country."

In his Knesset motion Dinitz writes that "continuing the present situation plays into the hands of the Lebanese and the Syrians, increases friction with the Shi'ites and weighs heavily on the IDF's resources."

Message from Gonzalez to Peres

Jerusalem Post Staff

A message from Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez dealing with Israeli-Spanish relations was handed to Prime Minister Shimon Peres by Labour MK Micha Harish on Friday. Officials here refused to comment on the content of the message, but

observers linked it to the recent decision of the Spanish Socialist Party supporting the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Peres has asked Harish, who has known the Spanish Socialist leader since 1967, to maintain contacts with Gonzalez.

Israeli Druse seek to go to Lebanon

By MENAHEM HOROWITZ
Jerusalem Post Reporter

YARCA, Western Galilee. - A number of Israeli Druse have asked the government for permission to go to Lebanon to fight alongside their co-religionists against the Christians.

Several Druse leaders, speaking here yesterday at a meeting of 1,500 Druse, said that they would cross the border without permission if their request was turned down. The Druse, including MK Zeidan Atshe (Shinui), assembled here to discuss

the situation in Lebanon.

"In Israel, all the media report is the Druse bombardment of the Christian Kharroub region (north of the Awali River in Southern Lebanon). No one speaks about the situation of the Druse in the Shouf Mountains nor about the attacks by Lebanese Army soldiers against our brethren," said Dr. Fadil Mansour, a member of the Druse Committee on South Lebanon Affairs. In Israel the media have made the Christians out to be the underdogs and the Druse murderers," Mansour said.

Greens seek probe of South Lebanon occupation

BEIRUT (Reuters). - The West German Greens Party intends to ask the European Parliament to set up a special committee to investigate Israel's occupation of Southern Lebanon.

This was announced by the seven-member Greens delegation at a press conference here yesterday following their tour of Southern Lebanon. The delegation is soon to visit Jordan and Israel.

Reagan, Thatcher talk of missile control

CAMP DAVID, Maryland (Reu-

ter). - President Ronald Reagan conferred yesterday with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on his anti-missile plan and his strategy for the high-level U.S.-Soviet arms talks in Geneva next month.

Reagan greeted Thatcher, whom he last saw in Britain in June, with a kiss when she arrived at the Camp David presidential retreat in the Catoctin Mountains of Maryland. Thatcher flew by helicopter from

nearby Washington, where she held a breakfast meeting with Vice-President George Bush at which international economics and the prime minister's visit to China earlier this week topped the agenda.

RAMBAM. - Education Minister Yitzhak Navon on Friday declared the Jewish Year 5745 (1984-85) the year of Rabbi Moses Ben Maimon (the Rambam), the 12th Century rabbinic authority, codifier and philosopher.

ברוך דיין האמת

With deepest sorrow we announce the death after a long illness of our beloved wife and sister

BERTHA ESCHWEGE י"ע

daughter of Dr. Benjamin W. Hofmann ז"ל

The funeral will take place today, Sunday, December 23, 1984, leaving at 12 noon from the Shamgar funeral parlour to the Mount of Olives Cemetery.

Mordechai Max Eschwege
23 Hapalmach St. Jerusalem
Joseph Hofmann
Moneys, New York

Our mother and grandmother

HENNY KOPPEL

is no more.

The funeral will take place today, Sunday, December 23, 1984, at 12.45 p.m. at Kfar Samir Cemetery, Haifa.

The Family

To the Ron and Bach Families

Sincerest sympathy on the death of your dear

HENNY KOPPEL ז"ל

Kopel and Co., Chemitrade

IN MEMORIAM

In memory of

LOUIS BOYAR ז"ל

an unforgettable friend

on the occasion of the yahrzeit of his passing

Jean and Sam Rothberg

We regret to announce the death of

YITZHAK SABBAGH

at the age of 70, after a long illness.

The funeral took place on Friday, in Jerusalem.

Shiva at the Sabbagh residence, 117 Derech Hevron, Talpiot, Jerusalem.

The Family

TO ELLIOT GINSBERG

Our deepest condolences on the loss of your

BROTHER

Your Colleagues at
N.B.C. News (Israel)

'Shi'ites will prevent attacks against Israel'

Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV. — The local, mostly Shi'ite population in South Lebanon will prevent terrorists from attacking the Galilee once the Israel Defence Forces withdraw across the international border, Dr. Clinton Bailey of Tel Aviv University predicts.

Bailey was speaking last Thursday during a conference on "Shi'ism, Resistance and Revolution" at the university's Dayan Centre.

But, Bailey warned, if Israel insists on putting extraneous elements into the area "to irritate and radicalize" the Shi'ites, anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish extremism will "take over." Should this happen, he said, the Shi'ites will "come across the border" to attack the Galilee.

By "extraneous elements," Bailey was referring to the IDF-sponsored South Lebanon Army, made up mostly of Christians.

Bailey, an expert on the Beduin and Palestinians, has served in the IDF as a liaison officer with the Lebanese Shi'ites.

He said he detected three main changes among the Shi'ites since the 1982 war. First, they have become hostile to Israel. This was largely due, Bailey said, to the favoritism

Israel continues to show the Maronite Christians, who in turn have refused to accord the Shi'ites the respect and greater share of power which the Shi'ites believe they deserve. Nevertheless, Bailey added, this new hostility to Israel has not yet erased the Shi'ites' deeper hostility to the Palestinians and their determination not to let the PLO rebuild its bases in South Lebanon.

Second, the Shi'ites have become pro-Syrian, at least for the moment. This development, Bailey said, resulted from Israel's failure after the 1982 war to help the Shi'ites get more power in Lebanon. Their goodwill unreciprocated and their expectations disappointed, the Shi'ites have been forced to seek help from Damascus.

Third, the Shi'ites have undergone religious political radicalization. Again, Bailey partly blamed Israel's obtuseness for this. He warned that although the mainstream, largely secular Amal organization is still the most popular and powerful among the Shi'ites, its fanatic rivals such as the Party of God and Islamic Amal — both of which aspire to turn Lebanon into an Islamic state in confrontation with Israel — are gaining ground.



Vice Premier Yitzhak Shamir greets Yevgenia Alsvetskaya, an activist for Soviet Jewish emigration, and her husband Alexander Yudrovsky, at his office in Jerusalem on Friday. Shamir later cabled a dozen friendly governments around the world asking for their intercession with the Soviets on behalf of Jewish activists. (Scoop 80)

Police help retrieve children held by Kach in Jerusalem

Two children, snatched by their mother recently from their foster home and handed over to the Kach Movement, were returned to the foster parents on Friday following police intervention.

The children, aged two and six, were delivered to Kach in Jerusalem three weeks ago, reportedly after the woman learned that her Arab boyfriend, father of the younger child, was a police informer. The six-year-old is from a previous marriage. The children had been living with a foster family in Mevaseret Yerushalayim outside Jerusalem.

On Thursday, the Jerusalem

Magistrate's Court, at the request of the city's social affairs department, ordered the children restored to their foster home.

When the order was ignored, the police on Friday morning went to Kach headquarters in Agrippas Street in the capital and brought two of the movement's members to the police station for questioning. Later Kach leader MK Meir Kahane came to the station and promised to hand over the children.

The children were surrendered to a social worker in the afternoon. (Itim)

ISRAELI BANKING

(Continued from Page One)
sheer quantity of money involved led to excesses developing on the lending side.

Today, everyone knows that the banks got into terrible trouble by making excessive loans to developing countries and to the energy sector, particularly in North America. Yet their explanation, like that of the man asked why he jumped into the bramble bush, "that it seemed a good idea at the time," is less ridiculous than hindsight makes it seem. Even the prophets of doom, who foresaw a sorry end to the tale, were left in the position of the watcher on the tenth floor who, inquiring from a man who had jumped from the twentieth how he was feeling, received the answer "so far, so good."

The purpose here is not to investigate what happened to the world banking system in the years 1974-82; nevertheless, the parallels between world and local trends are so close in outline (while differing, of course in detail) that anyone overlooking them cannot possibly get to grips with the story of Israeli banking in that period.

However, there are two sides to every story, and while the bankers of the world can make a good defence on the basis of objective circumstances and pressures, which in essence boil down to "what else could we do," or even, "we were trying to help you, so don't be ungrateful now," that is not the whole story.

The other side of the coin is the "unacceptable fact of banking," to paraphrase former British premier Edward Heath. The entire history of banking is replete with instances of greed, rapaciousness, and the search

after the quick and easy buck, that stand in total contrast to the solid, serious and conservative image that the banking industry has always sought to project. The 1970s was a period in which all these negative elements ran amok, under cover of those very "objective circumstances" mentioned above.

No other reason can explain why many banks, including many of the largest in the world, ignored or callously broke the basic rules of their trade, and lent too much ("exposed" is the euphemism used to replace "endangered") of their capital to individual companies and countries, thereby flying in the face of both prudence and common sense.

When the crash came, in 1981/82 and subsequently, (in Europe, the crisis over excessive lending to Eastern European countries came much earlier, in 1979/80) the total collapse of the international banking system was only prevented by the energetic steps taken by national and multinational authorities, who belatedly awoke to the effect of their previous policies, or lack of them.

Because of their importance in the maintenance of stability in the world economy, the banks were not allowed to go under, despite the severe shakeout that the industry experienced. The simple fact is that banks are not like computer companies, and their bankruptcy has much wider and more disastrous ramifications than that of corporate entities in other sectors.

Thus, although a record number of banks have shut their doors in the U.S. in both 1983 and 1984, these

have been small, local outfits. When the eighth largest bank in the U.S. — Continental Illinois — began to crumble last spring, even the anti-interventionist Reagan administration was forced to move immediately to its rescue. This cost the American government several billion dollars, and established a de facto principle that no major bank's depositors' money would be lost. Despite the economic and political implications of the Continental Illinois incident, there was simply no other choice.

Meanwhile, beyond providing the liquidity and policy direction that the world banking system needed to stay afloat, the central banks and other governments also operated in another sphere to ensure the viability of the commercial banks. They changed, altered, fudged and fixed (call it what you will) the rules of the game, in terms of reporting, accounting and other procedures, so that, for instance, the huge loans are not registered as "non-performing assets" nor written off as losses.

This may sound irregular, or even crazy, to outsiders. The explanation is brutally simple. The modern financial system has no fixed measure of value (such as gold) to determine worth. It exists solely on the basis of trust and confidence. The banking system has, in practice, been severely battered from those points of view. If, however, the governments and their joint organizations stand in the breach then confidence is restored — so long as these governments themselves have and retain credibility. By fixing the rules, the national and multinational authorities are demonstrating their support of the system.

There are two further points of fundamental importance to our Israeli situation, beyond the general parallels between local and international trends, which need to be made.

The first is that of the relationship of Israel to the international banking community, as a lender and borrower. One of the claims that our bankers love to make is that it is their good standing and their connections with the "foreign bankers" that allows them to keep borrowing

money on our behalf and, by implication, keeps us going. By further implication — in fact the claim is sometimes made explicitly — if the banks are attacked, or even if they are examined too closely, the country itself is in danger. At its extreme, this argument takes the form that it is the personal contacts of the senior bankers that keeps us in the good graces of our foreign creditors.

This line of reasoning is dubious on many counts, but it is patently false on two.

Firstly, in their currently strained situation, foreign bankers are forced to lend along much stricter lines of country limits and individual-borrower-limits, and not play fast and loose according to who their friends are. They will shun excessive risk if they can. They lend to Israel because our banking system is a net lender internationally, that is, it has more deposits from foreigners in Israel and abroad which it lends to other banks than it borrows from them.

Secondly, and by extension, our credit-worthiness as regards our lenders, be they international banks or individuals who have deposited some of their funds in our banks, depends ultimately on our overall economic performance, not on the personal charm of this or that banker, or even the profit or loss of this or that institution. If the economy doesn't improve, other factors won't matter, and if it does, then these factors will have only a marginal impact on the overall result (although a possibly larger one on each individual bank).

In other words, the bottom line is that we get what we deserve, not what the banks cajole for us as some kind of charity.

As a result, there is no reason why the banking system and the bankers themselves should not be on the national agenda. Obviously, if we start guillotining the banks in the main squares, after mob trials, then we will not be doing our image any good, and foreigners — bankers and their governments — will draw the relevant conclusions.

If, however, the banking system, which is so central a feature of our economy, finds its rightful place within the framework of a serious public debate on the ills of that economy and their remedies, then no one — either at home or abroad — can legitimately claim that we are rocking the boat, cutting off our nose to spite our face, sawing off the branch we are perched on, or any other metaphor which might occur to them.

On the contrary, we would only be doing that which has to be done — and the sooner, the better.

UKM kibbutzim took in 2500 last year

By LIORA MORIEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

REVIVIM. — Over the past year, 2500 people have been accepted as candidates for membership by kibbutzim affiliated with the United Kibbutz Movement. UKM secretary-general Yosef Perlmutter told the movement's convention here on Friday night.

"Lately, because of the worsening economic situation, more and more people want to join, but we are limited by lack of housing and jobs for them," he told delegates representing 80,000 people in the UKM's 176 kibbutzim.

Perlmutter said that the UKM was willing to help solve some of the country's economic problems, be-

cause its ideology called for full employment even at the price of reduced living standards. He said that the movement's schools and regional colleges were prepared to retrain jobless adults to enable them to move from services to industry.

But such a programme could only succeed with government help, he said, and since 1977 the UKM had had no government help, and has had to rely on its own resources to help its newer and weaker kibbutzim. Perlmutter said 40 kibbutzim owed the movement \$120 million, and that this situation could not continue. "The government and the Jewish Agency must shoulder their share," he declared.

Dealing with other issues, the 300

delegates decided over the weekend that kibbutz members who receive inheritances will be required to hand them over to their kibbutz.

The debate on the matter was often stormy. Absorption Minister Ya'acov Tsur, a member of Netiv Halamed-Heh, said "We're talking about ideology, about putting everything concerning outside property on the table, so as to avoid the under the table deals common today."

Perlmutter said that the basic ideology demanded that members hand over all outside property to the kibbutz. He said that the problem arose because parents of kibbutz founders were dying and leaving their children inheritances.

Despite Labour Party promises—

Jordan Rift settlements have received no aid

By YITZHAK OKED
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The government has not given Jordan Rift settlements so much as one shekel in aid despite many promises by Labour ministers and an Agriculture Ministry committee recommendation that the settlements be granted \$200 million in low-interest loans over the next five years.

The spokesman for the Jordan Valley regional council, Micha Pitaro, told *The Jerusalem Post* that

settlers in the region were desperate and that settlements would not be able to recover without aid. There are 100 empty houses in eight of the 20 Jewish agricultural settlements in the area, and government aid is needed to absorb newcomers.

Local farmers said the Likud governments had completely ignored them, but that they had not received high-priority treatment from previous Alignment governments. The settlers farm 30,000 dunams of land and say they could work 50,000 more

if they were given aid.

The recently appointed Agriculture Ministry adviser on settlement affairs, Shlomo Wolf, said that the settlers were right in feeling they had been neglected, and promised they would receive priority in the 1985/86 budget.

Wolf said aid to settlements on the Golan Heights in the Jordan Valley, Pithat Shalom and the Arava would be given high priority. He did not mention financial aid to the settlements in the West Bank.

Ethiopian olim's religious leader, Baharan Baruch, 84

ASHDOD (Itim). — The spiritual leader of the Ethiopian immigrant community, Baharan Baruch, known as Uri Ben Baruch, died here yesterday afternoon, aged 84.

Baruch came to Israel in 1977. He had had contacts with Rabbi Ovadia Yosef before immigrating and played a key role in convincing the country's chief rabbis to accept Ethiopian Jews as Jews.

Ethiopian Jews call their religious leaders *Cohanim* (priests). Baruch was considered the community's *Cohen gadol* (high priest).

Baruch left a wife, two sons and five daughters in Israel and three more children in Ethiopia, among them Ya'ir and Akiva, who are leaders of the Jewish community there.

Deputy Haifa mayor resigns in pay dispute

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — Deputy Mayor Prof. Moshe Livneh (Labour) submitted his resignation on Friday. It is to take effect at the end of February.

Livneh told *The Jerusalem Post* that his decision followed the government's failure to approve his demands for the same pay and fringe benefits that he had received as a Technion professor.

"My decision to resign has nothing to do with my relations with the mayor, which have always been excellent, or with any disputes within the municipality," he said.

Livneh said he had waited for more than a year for the Interior Ministry and the attorney-general to approve his request, but to no avail. Similar requests have been granted to other academics in public service, he said.

Livneh was appointed by Mayor Arye Gurel to tackle the city's transport problems. Because of his experience in civil engineering, he was also put in charge of the planning and building committee.

Economists disappointed by government performance

By LEA LEVAVI
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The package deal, according to Hebrew University economics professor Reuben Grunau, can be likened to medication given to lower a patient's temperature so that an operation can be performed. But the surgery must follow and must be painful.

The "surgery," i.e., cutting the government budget, would force workers to leave the public sector for the productive business sector. Grunau told Israel radio yesterday. Unemployment is an essential step in this process, he stressed. He said

that while the new government had started to move in the right direction, the process had stopped.

Former Bank of Israel governor Arnon Gafni also said he had hoped the three months of the package deal would be used not only for budget cutting but also for taxation reforms and the capital market, and he was disappointed.

Both economists said dollarization under current circumstances would be useless, if not worse, and that if the necessary economic measures were not taken immediately, 1985 would be a far worse year economically than 1984.

Hapoalim head: Second package deal needed

Jerusalem Post Reporter

There will be no choice but to create a second package deal because the government has not made good use of the "time out" provided by the first, Ephraim Reiner, chairman of the board of Bank Hapoalim, told Israel radio on Friday evening.

The time provided by the first package deal should have been used to cut government spending and stimulate economic growth. Instead,

he said, funds for new investments have been frozen, and unemployment has been created in the wrong place, the factory floor.

With good management, Reiner said, the government could cut its activities without creating serious unemployment, simply by not replacing workers who leave and by reaching an agreement with the unions to transfer employees from places where they are not needed

Fire destroys Yeroham mayor's office

By LIORA MORIEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

YEROHAM. — A fire in the municipality yesterday completely destroyed the mayor's office and caused damage estimated at "many million shekels".

Fire brigade chief Avner Mordechai said that an initial investigation had shown no evidence of arson.

As Yeroham has no police or fire station, it was a Dimona fire truck

that raced off to Yeroham at 5 a.m., arriving in the nearby town only 10 minutes later.

It took the two firemen an hour to contain the flames that raged in the mayor's offices and in two adjoining rooms. "If not for their efforts, the building would have been completely destroyed," Mordechai said.

He said the fire may have been caused by a short circuit, and that the flames had spread quickly because the offices were panelled with wood.

Baby flown from Turkey for treatment

BEN-GURION AIRPORT (Itim).

— The wife of a U.S. soldier serving in Turkey was flown here yesterday in a U.S. Army Hercules plane with her newborn baby who was having breathing difficulties following a dif-

ficult birth. An ambulance waiting at the airport took the mother and baby to Assaf Harofeh Hospital near Tel Aviv where both were reported in good health yesterday evening.

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MORIAH JORDAN RIVER HOTEL - TIBERIAS

Soviet Defence Minister Ustinov dies at 76

MOSCOW (AP). — Defence Minister Dmitri Ustinov, who died on Thursday at 76 after eight years as military chief, was lying in state yesterday in the black-and-red draped Hall of Columns as Soviets began mourning the loss of one of the nation's most powerful men.

The front of the ornate hall was hung with a huge portrait of Ustinov, a member of the ruling Politburo since 1976, on a black-bordered red banner more than two stories high.

Soviet newspapers yesterday carried a brief front-page announcement of the death and on the second page printed Ustinov's official portrait and an obituary signed by Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko, the 10 other Politburo members and high-ranking Kremlin and military officials.

Ustinov, whose political career spanned Soviet history from the Stalin era to the superpower tensions of the 1980s, was the fifth senior member of the aging Soviet leadership to die in nearly three years.

Ustinov died after a bout of pneumonia, an unsuccessful operation to repair an incipient rupture in his main abdominal artery, and the subsequent failure of vital organs, according to a Tass announcement on Friday.

Ustinov, who held the rank of marshal, was the first head of the Soviet military since Leonid Brezhnev who never had a field command or an army career.

Tass, the national radio, and television said Ustinov would be buried tomorrow in Red Square at the foot of the Kremlin wall.

Ustinov, who had not been seen in public for three months prior to his death, presided over the Soviet military machine as Stalin's World War II arms commissar and through a period of great post-war growth.

As the Communist Party's civilian defence industry boss in the 1960s, he is credited both with guiding the Soviet space programme that put the first man into space and the nuclear build-up that made the Kremlin at least the military equal of the U.S.



Dmitri Ustinov

(Camera Press)

A conservative hardliner, Ustinov was said to have taken a key Politburo role before the death of Leonid Brezhnev in November 1982, and in the rise to the top party spot of the late Yuri Andropov and Chernenko.

But western diplomats said on Friday that it was unlikely that his

death would leave a power vacuum in the Kremlin, since the medical bulletin issued by Tass made clear that he had been out of action since October, when he contracted pneumonia.

"I don't think there is any more maneuvering," a West European diplomat said. "The decisions that had

to be taken obviously were taken months ago."

Many Western diplomats believe the current leadership is collective.

The process of deciding whether to begin new arms talks with the U.S., for example, started before Ustinov dropped from sight and the announcement of new talks was made afterwards.

Diplomats speculated that the decision on a successor had been made before Ustinov died.

Ustinov's death leaves the Politburo membership at 11, an aging group that has been reduced in the past 35 months by the deaths of Brezhnev, Andropov, party ideologist Mikhail Suslov, and Arvid Pelshe, the last of the Politburo Bolsheviks.

Ustinov was born to a worker's family in the Volga River city of Kuibyshev and graduated from the Leningrad Military Mechanical Institute. Stalin's purges of the Soviet military and Communist Party in the 1930s left the country reliant on young men such as Ustinov to organize the war effort against the Nazis.

After the war, Ustinov became minister for armaments, and in 1953 he became minister of the defence industry.

He held a top economic job under Nikita Khrushchev, surviving Khrushchev's ouster in 1964 and becoming a non-voting member of the Politburo in 1965.

Ustinov was advanced to full Politburo membership in March 1976 and appointed defence minister. He was immediately given the rank of general of the army and promoted to marshal of the Soviet Union in August 1983.

Ustinov was made a Hero of Socialist Labour for his contribution to boosting wartime armaments production and thus helping the Soviets defeat the Nazis. He won the title again in 1961 for his contribution to rocketry development and the manned Soviet space programme.

He was also awarded military decorations and held a Stalin prize and at least five Orders of Lenin.

Arms race can't guarantee security—Gorbachev

LONDON (AP). — Mikhail Gorbachev, high in the Kremlin leadership ranks, left Britain on Friday saying, "The arms race is incapable of ensuring the security of any state."

Cutting short his visit by one day because of the death in Moscow of Soviet Defence Minister Dmitri Ustinov, Gorbachev left as he arrived, expressing goodwill and understanding to his British hosts.

George Younger, secretary of state for Scotland, saw Gorbachev off at Edinburgh, and said the visit had "been a very great success and that it ensures a new phase in relations between our two countries."

Gorbachev, at 53 the youngest member of the ruling Politburo and believed by western Kremlinologists to be the No. 2 man in the Soviet hierarchy, is the most important Soviet official to have visited Britain since 1967, when then-premier Alexei Kosygin was here.

No threat to Bhopal as lethal chemical is processed

BHOPAL (Reuters). — Scientists yesterday ended neutralization of 25.5 tons — nearly twice the amount shown in factory records — of a lethal chemical which killed 2,500 people in this central Indian city earlier this month.

"Operation Faith," to turn liquid methyl isocyanate into pesticide, was completed two days behind schedule because of extra quantities of the chemical found in an underground storage tank and steel drums at a Union Carbide pesticide factory.

Announcing the end of the opera-

tion, a scientific adviser to the Indian government told reporters there was no longer a threat to Bhopal's 700,000 residents from the factory.

When the operation started last Sunday, he said scientists believed from factory records that there were only 15 tons of the lethal chemical to be converted, all in the storage tank. But nearly 24 tons were found in the tank and 1.5 tons in steel drums.

With the operation complete, workers removed jute sackings hung round the factory fence to stop gas wafting outside the complex in

the event of a new accident.

A control room, staffed round-the-clock by some of India's top scientists, was also shut down when the last of the chemical was converted around 6 a.m. yesterday.

Police also lifted restrictions on traffic driving past the factory for the first time since December 3 when the poisonous gas cloud drifted out of the factory across Bhopal.

About 125,000 people required hospital treatment as a result of the disaster, and there was an exodus of 250,000 when the plant was

reopened last Sunday for "Operation Faith."

Life is now almost back to normal in the city, but several thousand slum dwellers who lived near the factory have not yet returned to their homes.

BOOK HUNGER. — China is suffering an acute shortage of books, especially reference works, because demand is soaring and state-run publishing houses are too slow, the economic daily *Jingji Ribao* reported yesterday.

Fireballs stop rescue in Utah mine fire

ORANGEVILLE, Utah (Reuters). — Rescuers were hindered by suddenly flaring fireballs and poisonous fumes yesterday as they searched for 14 miners missing in a deep underground coal mine since Wednesday.

The rescuers found 13 bodies on Friday huddled together only a few hundred metres from the entrance to the mine shaft, but it was hoped the missing might be alive deep inside the mine.

So far the rescue workers, wearing breathing apparatus and fire-resistant clothing, have reached mid-way in the 900 m. mine shaft.

They planned to fire signal explosives later in the day, hoping that those missing had fled deep into the shaft where oxygen was believed to be abundant.

A spokesman for the Emery Mining Company described yesterday's effort as "touch and go," saying that the rescue teams were driven back several times by intense heat and poisonous fumes from the burning coal.

The greatest danger, however, was fireballs which leaped without warning from the smouldering coal walls of the shaft.

The miners, 26 men and a woman, were trapped on Wednesday night when fire erupted in a conveyor belt



A rescue worker on Friday leaves the entrance of the Utah coalmine. (UPI telephoto)

which pulled the coal to the surface.

Hopes of a successful rescue diminished on Friday night when a company spokesman said five Emery supervisors were among the dead found near the mine entrance.

"It causes us some concern," he said, "These were the leaders of the operation, and the fact that they appeared to be attempting to lead a group out of the mine raises the concern that others may also have been attempting to escape."

Arguments continued over safety standards at the mine which is in a

barren stretch of mountains 240 km. southeast of Salt Lake City.

Richard Trumka, president of the United Mine Workers Union, said the company's push for short-term productivity gains had jeopardized lives. "Safety is made an afterthought and miners are unnecessarily killed," he said.

But the company spokesman, while acknowledging that there were problems with mine safety a few years ago, said Emery had made a concerted and successful attempt to improve conditions.

Crews leave two tankers hit by Iraq

BAHRAIN (Reuters). — The crews of two tankers hit by Iraqi-fired missiles in the Gulf yesterday have been evacuated to Iran's Kharg Island and the vessels are under tow, shipping sources said yesterday.

The sources said about six fire-fighting and salvage tugs on the western side of the Gulf were on alert for a possible retaliatory air strike on shipping by Iran, which has been at war with Iraq since September 1980.

Both tankers — the fully-laden 112,855-ton Norwegian vessel *Thorshavet* and the 52,661-ton Liberian-registered *Magnolia* — were hit on Thursday and set ablaze south of Kharg Island, Iran's main oil export terminal in the north-east corner of the Gulf.

Earlier, Iraq said its warplanes had hit two large naval targets south of the island.

The sources did not know whether there had been any casualties on the two tankers, but initial reports said two crew members aboard the *Magnolia* had been killed.

Iran yesterday poured cold water on talk of renewed

Islamic mediation in the Gulf conflict, saying it would pursue its four-year-old war with Iraq until the Baghdad government was overthrown. Reuters reported from Sana'a.

"There is no room for dialogue or peace with Iraq. The war will continue until complete victory and the end of the aggressor regime," Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told a news conference there.

Velayati, attending a meeting of foreign ministers of the 45-member Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) in Sana'a said Iran had reservations about a conference appeal to both sides to cooperate with an ICO mediation committee.

"If the committee's position is the same as in the past, then our answer will be the same as in the past," he said.

Iran has previously accused the ICO committee of bias towards Iraq.

Conference sources said Velayati's remarks raised serious doubts about the chances for any fresh mediation in the conflict.

Police kill three in strike against Bangladesh military

DACCA (AP). — Three people, including a student leader, were killed yesterday when police fired on pickets during the first six hours of a planned 48-hour nationwide general strike, local sources said.

The sources said more than a dozen people were injured.

The clash in Rajshahi, 350 kilometres northwest of the Bangladesh capital, occurred when members of the law enforcement agencies tried to remove student barricades on the railway track near the Rajshahi University train station.

Two highly placed unofficial sources in Rajshahi, reached by telephone, confirmed the deaths. There was no confirmation from official sources in Dhacca or Rajshahi.

Shahjahan Siraj, student leader of the Awami League, was killed in the clash, the sources said.

The Awami League, along with the country's other major opposition party, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, is spearheading the movement to end military rule and bring about an early return to democracy.

The Awami League and Nationalist Party lead two opposition alliances sponsoring the strike to pressure President General H.M. Ershad to end martial law, establish a neutral caretaker government and conduct parliamentary elections.

One opposition leader said there had been an "overwhelming response" to the strike call despite a military government ban on such activity throughout the weekend.

In the capital, streets were empty except for a few government-run buses that moved under heavy police protection.

150 feared dead as Bangladesh boats sink

DACCA (AP). — More than 150 people were feared drowned in two separate sinkings of passenger motor launches in southern Bangladesh, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The English-language daily, *The New Nation*, said five bodies were recovered but about 100 people may have drowned on Friday when a passenger vessel sank in a river near Pirojpur, 350 kilometres south of here. The motor launch was carrying more than 200 people. Many swam

to the shore, the report said.

In another accident on Friday, at least 50 people were believed drowned when a passenger launch sank after a head-on collision with another passenger vessel in the Meghna River near Chandpur, 150 km. southeast of here. *The New Nation* said.

The paper said four people, including a four-year-old child, were known to have been killed and 10 injured after the collision.

Kennedy tours Ethiopian famine areas

JIJIGA, Ethiopia (AP). — U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy yesterday finished a five-day tour of famine areas, saying that the experience "will stay with me for the rest of my life."

The Massachusetts senator said, "I leave Ethiopia with a very, very heavy heart. The people — the mothers, the children, the old people — to touch them, to touch their bones, to see their tears, it will stay with me for the rest of my life."

Kennedy was scheduled to fly today to Sudan, a pro-Western nation that has been hit by a flood of more than 100,000 refugees from Chad in the west and Ethiopia in the east.

Yesterday, Kennedy visited a feeding centre run by the Roman Catholic Missionaries of Charity, Order of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Mother Teresa, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for her humanitarian work, is due to fly to Ethiopia on Christmas Day.

Kennedy donned a white smock and dished out gruel to skeletal children in northern Wollo Province on Friday. He toured the Jijiga feeding centre, observing many children who had been placed on intravenous drips, while his 24-year-old daughter Kara dished out food to lines of famine victims.

Singapore's ruler is sure of winning election

SINGAPORE. — Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and his party colleagues yesterday expressed confidence that they will make a clean sweep as polling continued briskly in Singapore's general election.

The opposition has failed to win a seat in any general election since independence in 1965, but a narrow margin in a 1981 by-election made Joshua Jeyaretnam of the Workers Party the lone opposition member in the last parliament.

Jeyaretnam and another opposi-

tion member, both lawyers, have claimed that there has been an erosion of democratic rights, freedom and social justice under the unbroken People's Action Party rule of the last 25 years.

Lee has said that his party is relying on its impressive past economic performance. He promises continued prosperity and a "glorious city of distinction in 1999 with a mature and cultivated people."

But he warned that any consti-

tuency which opted for an opposition candidate would face unpleasant consequences.

Lee came to power 25 years ago with an anti-colonial campaign and the backing of the Communists, whom he later purged. With a policy of opening Singapore to foreign investment, the prime minister turned what was a British colonial backwater into a financial, shipbuilding and manufacturing centre with a standard of living second in Asia only to Japan's. (Reuters, AP.)

Campaigners hurt in Marxist-ruled Indian state

NEW DELHI (Reuters). — More than 50 people were injured in Indian election violence as campaigning drew to a close for next week's parliamentary polls, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported yesterday.

The news agency said that since official campaigning started at the end of November, at least six people have died and more than 100 have been injured in clashes between rival political workers.

PTI said that political workers clashed twice Friday at villages in the Marxist-ruled West Bengal state, and at least 50 people were injured in the latest incident.

Police also fired teargas to disperse stone-throwing supporters and opponents of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's ruling Congress (I) Party yesterday near the southern city of Bangalore.

Authorities on Friday tightened security around Gandhi after police warned of threats to stage a massacre at one of his public rallies at Bangalore. They said two newspapers had received letters telling them to send photographers to record a massacre at one of his

meetings there. But PTI said the rallies went ahead without incident.

The letters carried the name Khalistan Liberation Organization. Khalistan is the name of a Sikh nation that extremists are trying to establish in northern Punjab state.

Some 1,500 people died in anti-Sikh violence that erupted throughout the country after Indira Gandhi's assassination by two Sikh bodyguards on October 31.

In Delhi, the climax to weeks of preparations by rival politicians contesting seven parliamentary seats was marked by a cacophony of slogans broadcast by loudspeakers carried on motor rikshaws and trucks through the streets of the sprawling capital.

Thousands of multi-coloured posters and flags decorated walls, lamp-posts and highway fly-overs, appealing to voters with party symbols or huge portraits of rival politicians.

Some candidates, garlanded in flowers, rode camels or horses or sat on car roofs while their supporters ran alongside, beating drums and blowing Indian trumpets.

The Jerusalem Post

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WOMEN's rights emerged from the exclusive domain of women's organizations into the general domain of social concern when the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) arranged a symposium earlier this month, *Women's Rights - Work and Taxes* under the auspices of the law faculty of Tel Aviv University. The intention was to investigate women's rights from the point of view of civil rights by starting with a situation that is clearly discriminatory - both positively and negatively - namely, women in the workplace.

Prof. Ruth Ben-Israel of the Tel Aviv law faculty, an expert in labour law, addressed three different aspects of the problem. First, laws that discriminate in favour of women on the basis of the biological difference between men and women (a pregnant woman is allowed a certain number of hours off work at the expense of her employer for the purpose of medical tests; maternity leave of three months is mandatory and a nursing mother is entitled to an hour a day at the expense of her employer to breastfeed her baby) do not fall within the definition of unequal treatment because men do not become pregnant, give birth or nurse.

On the other hand, all laws and regulations relating to child care are discriminatory because they are based on a social philosophy according to which child care is the sole responsibility of the mother. Such laws entrench this philosophy and do not allow for the changes that would arise should society accept the more modern and liberal view that child-rearing is a parental responsibility and either parent should be permitted to take advantage of the right to resign from a job to care for a baby and receive compensation from the employer. Or to work an hour less

Civil rights, women's rights

The law should grant female workers special consideration only with regard to pregnancy, birth and breastfeeding, according to speakers at a recent symposium. Ann Swersky reports.



per day because there are small children in the house. Or take days off from work to tend an indisposed member of the family. The parents should decide such questions between them and not have the social decision imposed by discriminatory laws.

The third category is laws that supposedly protect women from exploitation but in fact penalize them and limit their choice of occupation, such as the law prohibiting night work for women, or that of enforcing retirement at 60. The nightwork law does not require permits for women

who want to work in jobs that are not wanted by men, such as nursing or operating the international telephone exchange. But a permit is required for computer programmers - and must be applied for by the employer, not the potential employee.

In the western world today it is no longer clear that early retirement is desirable and the tendency is to believe that people should work as long as possible if their health permits. Where no physical labour is involved, there is no reason why women doctors, civil servants, or

production workers should retire before men.

What Israel needs today is an equal-opportunities-in-employment law that would guarantee equality to both men and women as far as acceptance, salaries, advancement and retirement are concerned, with the necessary clauses to provide for the working woman as far as pregnancy, birth and nursing are concerned. Child care regulations should apply to parents and not to mothers.

DR. YOSEF Edrai of the Recanati Business School, an expert in tax law, pointed out that the single woman is equal to the single man as far as the tax authorities are concerned but that the situation changes drastically as soon as a woman marries. At this stage she becomes, in the eyes of those same authorities, another column in her husband's tax file. The filing of one return for husband and wife when both have an income automatically shifts them into a higher tax bracket.

The couple can apply for separate returns as far as their earned income is concerned, but all income from property or investments must be assessed communally, even if the property belonged to the wife before the marriage. Furthermore, a man can claim credit points for a dependent wife, dependent parents or a wife who works for him in his business. A wife cannot claim these credit points if the situation is reversed. This is a clear example of inequality.

Rina Sha'ashua-Hasson, legal adviser on the status of women to Na'amat, pointed out that women are economically depressed because they earn less than men even when employed in equivalent positions, since only the basic wage, but not

fringe benefits, is included in the law enforcing equal pay. Since women usually start at a lower grade than men and advance more slowly, this accounts for the short, fat pyramid of women in high managerial positions in the civil service, as against the tall, thin pyramid of men, though the percentages are equal.

When a couple is divorced, the communal property is only divided up, when the get has been granted, which means that the husband can delay the division by delaying the get. Furthermore, the communal property does not include the social benefits accruing as a result of the husband having worked and the wife maintaining the home, and the women is left without pension or social security.

Even the cancellation of the social clause in the abortion law is an economic weapon against the married woman who is forced to give birth to and raise an unwanted child and is thus unable to maintain her position in the workplace. The "right to life" argument is specious since the law does not apply to unmarried women or women who are over 40; they are entitled to abortions.

The conclusion of the symposium was that as equal citizens in Israeli society women should have equal rights - to work, to earn, to advance and to retire - and special consideration only in so far as women, and only women, can fall pregnant, give birth, and breastfeed.

The difficult question of housewives and their rights as the unsung, unrecognized, unappreciated, and unprotected members of the workforce, was mentioned in a question from the floor and should clearly be the subject of the next symposium on women's rights organized by the ACRI.

The price of resistance

THE ANXIETIES that afflict children of Holocaust survivors - second-generation suffering syndrome - has long been recognized. Now it seems that children of people who resisted the Nazis in occupied Europe and even of those who collaborated with them, also suffer.

Anaëke Schouten-Buys of Apeldoorn, Holland, who was born at the end of the war and had no personal experience of the German occupation save for a lasting vitamin deficiency resulting from her mother's pregnancy during the "hungry winter" of 1944, shares the anxiety of children of resistance fighters.

The tall, thin 39-year-old mother of two teenage boys is the daughter of one of the Amsterdam dockers who took part in the courageous strike against the German persecution of Dutch Jews.

The whole family was active in the resistance and the hiding of Jews from the Germans. Schouten-Buys' grandparents hid two Jewish couples for years and also gave shelter to others who needed a temporary refuge. Her grandfather died after the war "as a result of the stress experience."

One of his sons, her uncle, was arrested by the Gestapo in 1943, when he was only 19, for hiding Jews and was held in camps in Holland and Germany until the end of the war.

"The family had got a hint of an imminent Gestapo raid for Jews and managed to send those they were hiding to a safe refuge in time," said Schouten-Buys. "When they came the Gestapo found only a suitcase under a bed and my uncle claimed it as his own, expecting it to contain only clothes. In fact, it held illegal papers and my uncle was able to swear honestly he knew nothing of their origin."

Her own parents hid a young Jewish mother and her baby daughter, but as the house next door became a National Socialist centre, they found

Ya'acov Friedler

another haven. Eventually they were discovered by the Germans and sent to an extermination camp. She still has a small snapshot of the dark-haired little Jewish girl with her own fair-haired sister.

A few years after the war, her parents, like other resistance members, stopped talking of their experiences. In her opinion they were suppressing the remembrance of stress and thus unconsciously passing it on to the second generation. Schouten-Buys says that the Dutch resistance had proportionally large numbers of Jewish, communist (after Russia joined the war) and strictly orthodox Calvinist members. Her family was among the latter, but she adopted the Baha'i faith some years ago, which is what brings her to Haifa from time to time, to visit the shrines.

Interviewed recently at the Universal House of Justice of the religion, she told *The Jerusalem Post* that the Dutch government had recognized the second-generation syndrome, and some time ago the government-funded Foundation of Victims of the War opened a centre in Utrecht for them. There, children of Jewish victims, resistance members and National Socialist collaborators, who suffer from the inherited guilt and shame complex of their parents, can get therapy type treatment - in separate groups, of course.

In her own case, this has resulted in her starting to write poetry about her relatives in the resistance and camp experiences. Recently she started collecting material for a biography of a Jewish Dutch woman, Rosey Eva Pool, a doctor of cultural anthropology, who was one of the first Europeans to recognize the value of black American poetry (at a time when these black poets were largely ignored) and helped them publish.

Pool, who came from a family that had converted to Catholicism, studied in Holland and Germany, and for a short time was married to a German, until he joined the Nazis. During the war she was sent to the Westerbork transit camp in Holland by the Germans, pending her transport to an extermination camp. Because she possessed information vital to keep from the Germans, the resistance managed to smuggle her out of the camp, under the Germans' noses, hidden in a laundry van.

Because of her own religious confusion and the different denominations of the inmates "she gave them a feeling of faith without linkage to a particular religion, by teaching them negro spirituals. Born in 1905, Pool died in the U.S.A. in 1971.

Schouten-Buys has established that Pool was personally acquainted with Otto Frank, father of Anne "and I believe she was also Anne's teacher in Amsterdam for some time." She had been a headmistress in a school especially put up for Jewish refugee-children from Germany, because of her knowledge of the language. During her stay in Haifa, Schouten-Buys is meeting people who have information on Pool to verify the assumption.

After the war Otto Frank showed Pool the diary of his daughter. "She recognised its value, advised him to publish it and even made a translation into English."

Pool had given up her religion, but in 1949 or 1950 came to Israel "to try to find and understand her roots." She was so impressed by a routine sight-seeing visit to the Baha'i shrines in Haifa that she eventually joined the faith, in the U.S.A.

Schouten-Buys embraced the Baha'i religion in 1969, following her older sister and "believing it to be the realization of biblical prophecy." Now she is able to combine her pilgrimage to the shrines with research for her biography on Rosey Pool, for which she already has a tentative publisher.

ISRAEL is a country of half truths when it comes to money matters, warned accountant Michael Luzann at a recent financial seminar for women. Few people bother to investigate the regulations that apply to personal finances and investments; instead they rely on rumours and second-hand information.

Do you know what would happen to the family finances if your spouse died? It is commonly assumed that half the assets of a joint bank account would automatically become the property of the surviving partner, but in Israel this is not the case.

"Even if the account is held abroad, rights of survivorship are not recognized here. The deceased's half goes into the estate, to be distributed according to the will," reported lawyer Ruth Wahrman, who spoke on wills and inheritance.

Israel does, however, recognize estate planning investments made abroad, except in the case of real estate. Estate duty was abolished

WHAT DO chocolate cake, rice pudding and waffles and milkshakes have to do with health food? These and other specialties were being served recently in the lounge of the Hilton Hotels in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem as part of a month-long health foods festival.

On the menu were cakes with whole wheat flour, muffins with bran, brown rice pudding with burghul, cookies with brown sugar and sesame seeds, oatmeal with fresh and dried fruits, yoghurt and granola, plus tortes with carob honey and a most delicious product called "crunch" - made of toasted oats, raisins, ingredients nuts and honey - which is sprinkled on ice-cream and icings. These healthful ingredients contain no preservatives, additives or artificial colourings. They are only some of the products produced by the Sugar factory in Kiryat Gat which used to pack only white sugar and polished rice.

I have always used wheat germ or yellow cornmeal and fine burghul in

Understanding family finances

Nomi Morris

here a few years ago.

These and many other vital issues were discussed in a series of four half-day sessions organized by Israel and Overseas Investments (1934) Limited.

The seminar, given in English, was geared to the needs of non-Israeli women, and focused on Israeli law and its relation to laws in other countries, particularly England and the U.S. Even people who are familiar with concepts such as capital gains, capital transfers, trusts and exchange control, may not know which taxes, time limits and shekel regulations apply, explained the

organizers. In the elegant setting of the Jerusalem Hilton, 20 women heard lectures on taxation, insurance, banking, real estate, wills, trusts, stocks, bonds and commodity and money markets.

Intricate concepts were explained simply and succinctly, and thoughtful questions met with candid advice. Financial experts provided such up-to-date information that even Nigel Wallis, head of Israel and Overseas Investments, was busy taking notes.

Why, then, was the seminar directed specifically to women?

"There is no doubt that everything dealt with in this seminar applies equally to men," answered Wallis. "It was aimed at women for two basic reasons. First, women are

much more willing than men to admit that they don't know enough about finance, though they are just as capable as men of understanding it. Second, women, through no fault of their own, have traditionally been kept in the dark about financial matters, which we believe is stupid and unreasonable in terms of family management."

Those enrolled in the seminar were religious and secular, young and elderly, single, married, divorced and widowed women. A travel agent, a real estate broker, and a commodity broker took time off from work in order to attend.

Two more financial seminars for women to be held in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv are set for January and February. No plans have yet been made to hold the seminar during the evening so more working women could attend.

"The women won't walk out of here with all the answers, but at least they now know what questions to ask," said Wallis.

Health food festival

my cakes and cookies, adding them to pasta and soup and using them with flour for breadmaking schnitzel. I have cooked semolina with bran, thickened my sauces with wheat flour or wheat germ. When lacking brown rice, I add burghul to ordinary rice to make it more nutritious.

Burghul, one of the most nutritious cereals, is a whole product that is steamed and dried. Its use dates back to the Stone Age. The Lebanese have a national dish called kibbeh made of a burghul paste stuffed with meat and nuts. Burghul is a staple in the diet of the Beduin who use it in a dish called megedra. With brown lentils or rice, it is a good meat substitute.

What makes all of these foods so special? First, they all contain the whole grain, which means the fibre and bran coats and the germ of the wheat, all rich in food elements. White flour, rice, pasta, semolina and other products have these im-

portant items removed by processing.

Whole grains also contain vitamins and minerals in large amounts. The Vitamin B complex is famous in nutritional history for preventing beri-beri as well as atrophy of nerves and muscles.

Vitamin E, prominent in wheat germ and burghul, prevents deposits of saturated fatty acids, brings oxygen to the cells and improves circulation.

The minerals found in burghul, wheat germ, whole wheat, oatmeal, legumes, brown rice and buck wheat grains are potassium, iron, calcium, magnesium and zinc, all necessary for health and disease prevention.

But it is the "fibre" in these foodstuffs which is of the utmost nutritional importance. Fibre prevents constipation and diseases of the intestinal tract by absorbing water and forming bulk; this prevents reabsorption in the intestines. Fibre

also lowers cholesterol and reduces sugar in the blood.

Drink plenty of water if you eat bran. Use vegetables and fruits which have a lot of fibre also in their skins. If you must peel them, use the peels in soups.

Use sunflower seeds, whole wheat flour and wheat germ with fried onion and garlic instead of white flour in stuffings for vegetables.

One of the best recipes using whole wheat flour is a bread created by Hilton confectioner Hanoche Berle and chef Ruth Wasser:

Spicy Bread
300 gr. whole wheat flour
600 gr. flour
80 gr. yeast
4 small chopped onions
100 gr. margarine (or 1/4 cup oil)
4 small eggs
2 tsp. salt
2 tsp. rosemary
1/4 tsp. nutmeg
2 tbs. brown sugar, honey or carob syrup
100 gr. bran
2-3 cups water (enough to make a soft dough)

Combine flours and bran in a bowl and make a well in these dry ingredients. Add yeast with a little water and sugar. Let it rise. Add onions fried in melted margarine, and spices. Beat eggs with a little water and add to the flour. Mix well and add enough water to make a soft dough. Put into greased loaf pans. Let rise to double. Bake at 170°C. for one hour. L.C.

Suzannah Heschel of the University of Pennsylvania will be speaking on the subject "A Feminist Critique of Religion" on Wednesday, Dec. 26, and on "The Varieties of Feminist Theology" on Thursday, Dec. 27. Both lectures are open and will take place at 8 p.m. at Jerusalem's Van Leer Institute.

Today is edited by Amy Levinson.

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Another disappointing year in prospect

LONDON (Reuters). - The 1980s are turning out to be a discouraging decade for countries whose livelihood depends on the raw materials that feed the world's factories or end up on grocery shelves as anything from chocolate cake to cooking oil.

Commodity prices have slipped around 4 per cent this year from their 1983 levels, analysts at Bank of America in San Francisco said in a recent report.

Sugar is languishing at its lowest value in 14 years, copper has sunk to levels not seen since the great depression and grain prices have failed to show any strength despite Moscow's buying spree to make up shortages from its own poor harvests.

Bank of America's researchers reckon that commodity values may edge up around 3 per cent overall next year, providing industrial commodity prices rebound enough to offset the 2 per cent drop expected in the price of agricultural ones. Even then they would still be 25 per cent below their 1980 peaks.

At a time when even the world's oil producers are feeling the pinch, many exporters of primary commodities - saddled with sluggish prices for their main source of foreign income and high interest rates on their overseas debts - may well have to tighten their belts yet another notch in 1985.

The fortunes of many such countries have wilted over the past year despite strong growth in the world economy. And economists now say the world's richer countries will be expanding more sluggishly next year.

The U.S. economy, which early in 1984 was booming ahead at over 10 per cent a year, is set to grow more sedately at around 4 per cent in 1985. "That will have a depressing effect on commodity prices," said George Young, an analyst with Landell Mills Commodities Studies in London.

Another headache for exporters is that the traditional bond between commodity prices and world growth is loosening.

Unlike the periods of buoyant growth in the 1970s, prices of non-oil commodities nowadays no longer seem to outpace industrial growth rates.

One reason for the change, said U.S. Undersecretary for Agriculture Daniel Amstutz recently, is that farmers all over the world "have more production potential and more incentive to use it."

Joe Joseph examines what 1985 holds in store for commodity producers.

New developments in production technology, aided by genetic engineering, mean that record shattering increases in production may be the exception rather than the rule.

Once again next year, mountains of sugar in Europe will vie with similar mountains in the Far East and Latin America for consumers who are turning more and more to artificial sweeteners for reasons of health or convenience - certainly not cost.

Next year is unlikely to erode the hefty surpluses which pose such a hurdle to higher prices, surpluses whose depressing weight on commodities like tin and coffee have been lessened only by the discipline of internationally-coordinated agreements to limit their flow onto the free market.

Other international commodity pacts, like those for cocoa, either fail to work properly, or, like the international sugar and wheat agreements, have been simply discarded in despair at their failure to work at all.

Even at today's copper prices, producers like Chile which rely on copper for nearly half their foreign income just cannot afford to board up its mines. Developing countries, meanwhile, are always ready to start up new mines to maximise export earnings, however disappointing prices are.

Producers are even suffering in the wealthy U.S., where the balance sheets of leading copper producers like Kennecott, Asarco and Phelps Dodge are stained a deep red.

Improved recovery techniques, substitution of materials like plastics and more sophisticated recycling methods will continue to eat into metals' traditional markets next year, analysts say.

At the same time, the high interest rates that make life a nightmare for developing countries trying to pay back mountains of debt also discourage speculators and industries from holding onto commodities whose prices will lag behind.

"Interest rates will stay fairly high and commodity prices will thus stay more depressed than they might otherwise have done," said Young of Landell Mills.

High interest rates have been one reason why prices of precious metals like gold are now at their lowest levels in over two years, a decline compounded, say analysts, by sales of gold by the Soviet Union to pay for much-needed grain imports.

Not that there is much of a shortage of grain. More bumper crops next year are likely to spark further international rows about the subsidies and export incentives that leading producers give to their farmers to maintain market shares.

Coffee, whose exporters have agreed to limit sales in order to stabilise world prices, has fared better than most. Prices are likely to hover near the current level of around \$1.35 a pound in the near future, analysts say.

Steady coffee prices mean that debt-ridden Brazil, for whom coffee remains the main export earner, can worry slightly less than others about the disappointing prospects for its cocoa.

Not so West Africa, where weak cocoa prices have pushed up balance of payments deficits. With cocoa producers set to harvest more cocoa in 1984/85 than the world wants, prices look set to drift lower still next year.

The international cocoa agreement has lacked the muscle to lift prices above the \$1.06 a pound level it seeks to guarantee. Current prices are around 97 cents a pound and have often been much lower.

Dependence on depressed commodities like tin and rubber have made 1984 an uninspiring year for Far Eastern producers.

"We expected better (rubber) prices and increased revenue for 1984, but lower prices this year due to bigger supplies of rubber despite strong demand have pushed revenue down," Malaysian Primary Industries Minister Paul Leong said recently.

With current world tin stocks of 88,000 tons enough to satisfy consumption for around six months, tin industry sources say prices are likely to remain dull. Malaysian tin industry sources say many marginal mines, already harassed by low prices, even face the prospect of closure in 1985.



Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein (foreground) sees how crystals are manufactured under sterilized conditions at the Motorola factory in Tel Aviv. (Israel Sun)

Bonn cuts taxes to favour families

BONN (Reuters). - Anxious about its dwindling population, West Germany last Wednesday announced details of a \$6.5 billion package of tax cuts to make having a family more attractive financially.

Health Minister Heiner Geissler told reporters that the cuts, decided by the cabinet Tuesday night, were "a mixture of more socially just taxation and targeted social support."

With 61 million inhabitants, West Germany is the most populous country in Western Europe. But since 1974 it has had the world's lowest birthrate.

Official estimates foresee only 55 million West Germans by 1990, dropping to 52 million in the year 2000.

The shrinking population this year forced Bonn to extend military service to avoid running down troop strength.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition is not only concerned about meeting West Germany's commitments to western defence, when it took office two years ago it pledged to reinforce the role of the family in society.

Kohl's Christian Democrats in particular felt that welfare and tax legislation had failed to acknowledge the extra burdens faced by people bringing up families.

Bank of Israel exchange rates

	IS
December 22, 1984	615.06
U.S. dollar	719.62
British sterling	197.31
German mark	64.411
French franc	174.70
Dutch guilder	239.37
Swiss franc	69.050
Swedish krona	68.173
Norwegian krona	55.064
Danish krona	94.785
Finnish mark	466.89
Canadian dollar	512.04
Australian dollar	314.94
South African rand	98.307
Belgian franc (10)	280.75
Austrian schilling (10)	320.55
Italian lire (1000)	247.96
Japanese yen (100)	615.37
Irish pound	356.86
Spanish peseta (100)	1506.9
Jordanian dinar	69.77
Lebanese lira	467.45
Egyptian pound	

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Order regarding Traffic and Parking Regulations during Christmas 1984 in Bethlehem and Beit Sahur.

Under powers vested in me by law, I announce as follows: From 6.00 a.m. on December 24, until 5.00 p.m. on December 25, 1984, traffic and parking restrictions will apply at the hours and places listed below:

- Traffic Restrictions - Bethlehem**
Entry to the Bethlehem area will be permitted only to vehicles with the appropriate parking stickers. The Israel Police will direct drivers with parking stickers at the entry to the restricted area.
- While the Patriarch's procession is travelling from the Jaffa Gate to Bethlehem, Jerusalem - Hebron road, in the town of Bethlehem, in either direction, and such traffic will be diverted via the Efrat Road - Tekoa - Zafra - Beit Sahur (transit will be allowed in both directions). Traffic to Gilo during this period will go via the Patz neighbourhood and the new road.
- Parking Restrictions**
The police will enforce restrictions on parking in Bethlehem Public Transport/Special Journeys - December 24

a. Buses
1. From 8.00 a.m. on December 24, tourists in organized groups and other passengers will proceed to the Egged depot at Tzfatim, from where special buses will take them to Bethlehem, under the direction of the police. Passengers will be returned to the "Tzfatim" depot after the ceremony (until 3.00 a.m. on December 25).

2. Bus service from East Jerusalem - sticker no. 8
The service will run from the Damascus Gate bus station to the car park near the Bethlehem Cinema (Madbesh Square). Passengers will board buses for the return journey, after the ceremony, in the Bethlehem Cinema plaza (Madbesh Square).

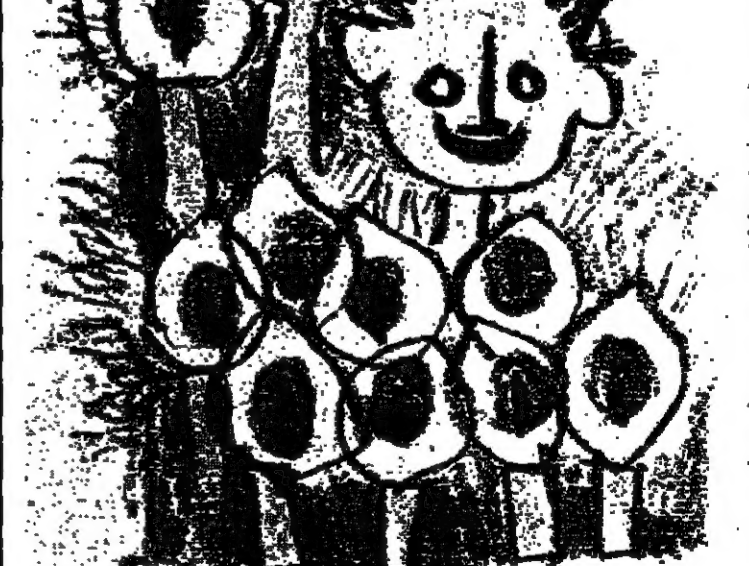
b. Taxis
1. Locally registered taxis (black numerals on a green background): From Jaffa Gate to Bethlehem (Madbesh Square) - via Dorch Hevron and the cinema plaza (sticker no. 8).

2. Israel-registered taxis (black numerals on a yellow background): From town to Rachel's Tomb.

Moshe Gabbai
Controller of Road Transport
Judea and Samaria District

0579-21-728

Brighten up their lives this Hanukka



The kindling spirit of Hanukka for Israel's underprivileged children needs your donations to the Jerusalem Post Toy Fund.

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Contributions may be brought to any office of The Jerusalem Post: JERUSALEM: The Jerusalem Post Building, Romema Industrial Zone; TEL AVIV: 11 Carlebach St.; HAIFA: 18 Nordau St., Hader Hacarmel. Or send directly by mail to The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000.

The 36th Annual HANUKKA TOY FUND

UK to review bank supervision

LONDON (Reuters). - The government said last Monday it will carry out a thorough investigation of the way it supervises British Banking, following the near-collapse of the Johnson Matthey bank two months ago.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson told Parliament the October rescue of Johnson Matthey Bankers by the Bank of England had revealed weaknesses in the present supervision arrangements.

His move is the latest repercussion of a crisis which shocked financiers. Johnson Matthey's banking interests are small, but it has a key position as one of the five prestigious bullion

Federal Reserve lowers discount rate

WASHINGTON (AP). - The U.S. Federal Reserve Board, moving again to stimulate American economic growth, on Friday lowered its lending rate to banks and other financial institutions to 8 per cent - the lowest level in six years.

The one-half percentage point drop marked the second time in four weeks that the American central bank has lowered its discount rate. The rate was 9 per cent on November 21 when the board cut it to 8.5 per cent.

Since August, the central bank has been using a variety of tools at its disposal to send interest rates down. The declines have been welcomed by

economists, who attribute the rebound in recent weeks to looser credit.

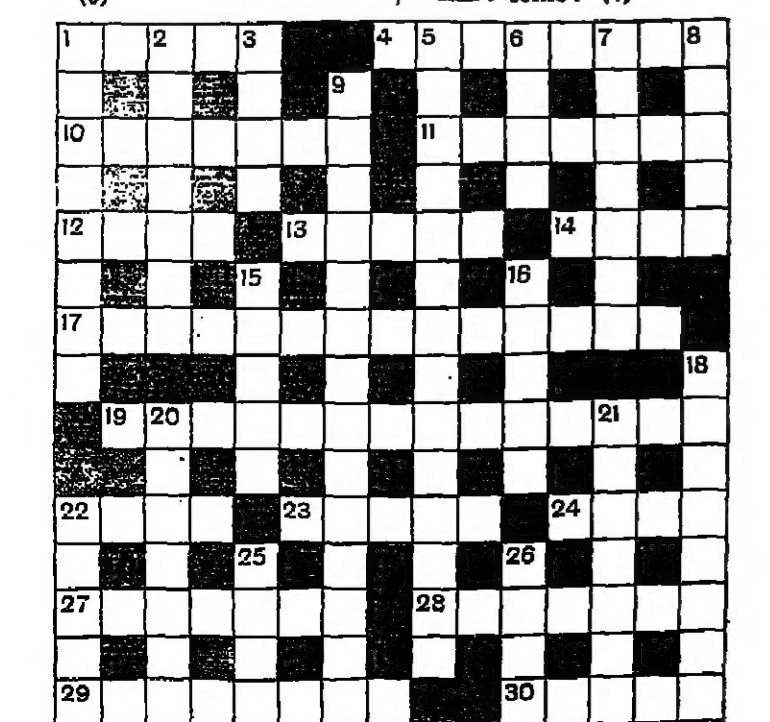
Analysts said the Federal Reserve Board was continuing to act to spur economic growth out of concern that growth had become so sluggish from July through September that the country was in danger of falling into another recession.

The rate has not been at 8 per cent since October 1978. The central bank, in a series of steps designed to bring inflation out of the economy, raised the discount rate to a record high of 14 per cent by the spring of 1981.



ONE-AND-ONE CROSSWORD

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Accommodation address taken from a Soho telephone directory (5) | 1 The social whirl to which the thex is accustomed? (4, 4) |
| 4 Furniture designer embracing heart-broken male offspring (8) | 2 Insignificant test taken about testate (7) |
| 10 A climb that is clearly getting more expensive (5, 2) | 3 Records that may well finish up on the fire (4) |
| 11 Indian monkey in which we see nothing but listlessness (7) | 5 Waiting for a call to be answered on a fishing expedition, possibly? (7, 3, 4) |
| 12 Place in which cubs may be left warm and dry? (4) | 6 Where many have gambled on getting a quick divorce (4) |
| 13 A record reverse in flat country (5) | 7 Dusters clumsily bundled together (7) |
| 14 A unit in South America or another continent (4) | 8 The standard followed by a Bellini heroine (5) |
| 17 Successive blows that speed yachtsmen on their way (5, 5) | 9 Orthographic instruction given at a charm school? (8, 6) |
| 19 Shakespeare's resolute determination? (8, 2, 4) | 15 A game of cards by the fire-side, perhaps (5) |
| 22 Love-torn politicians one might expect to see in bucket shops, maybe (4) | 16 Colloquially the synonym of the moment (5) |
| 23 A plaything a hundred and forty-five inches round (5) | 18 Hapless lad I left sprawling (3-5) |
| 24 Grouse or another kind of meat (4) | 20 Joint champions of the league? (7) |
| 27 Phantoms upon which a heavy duty is laid (7) | 21 A vessel designed to cope with hard water (7) |
| 28 Poet required to replace a broken door fastening? (7) | 22 Things fencers have to demand in writing? (5) |
| 29 Very hard working giants we transformed (8) | 25 Go over a catalogue or inventory (4) |
| 30 Not in keeping with modern trends, as letters should be (5) | 26 Married on nothing and didn't settle? (4) |



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Carmiel 988555
Dan Region 781111
Eilat 72333
Haifa 512233
Holon 803333
Tel Aviv 240111
Tiberias 90111

* Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area around the clock.
101 Emergency phone number in most areas.

DENTAL

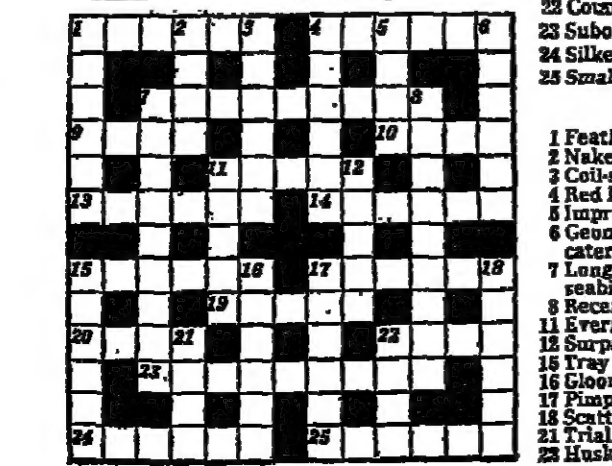
"Eran" - Mental Health First Aid, Tel.: Jerusalem 669911, Tel Aviv 2611112, Haifa 672222. Beersheba 418111, Netanya 45316.
For information on Battered Women Shelters call Family Violence Service - 03-231675. 239922 or any of the Rape Crisis Centre or Eran hot lines.
Jerusalem Center for Drug Abuse and Misuse Intervention, Tel. 663828, 663902.
14 Bethlehem Rd.

POLICE

Dial 100 in most parts of the country. In Tiberias dial 924444. Kiryat Shmona 4444.

QUICK CROSSWORD

- 1 Dots
4 Unconcerned with ethics
7 Naval administration
9 Reign
10 Narcotic drug
11 Hidden store
13 Journey



- 14 Oxford college
15 Shrine
17 Looked closely
19 Regal
20 Final
22 Counters
23 Subordinate
24 Silken sound
25 Szall brook

- DOWN**
1 Feathered mimic
2 Naked
3 Cold-shaped
4 Red Indian
5 Imprecation
6 Geometrid caterpillar
7 Long-winged seabird
8 Recent past
11 Evergreen conifer
12 Surpass
15 Tray
16 Gloomy
17 Pimp
18 Scatter
21 Trial
22 Husks of grain

Friday's Solutions

CRASS AND PLEAD
A T R E U G O
B A R R I E R A L L E G E D
I C T O F L A G
E R T P E N C E N E
S H A L L O T E T I O E S
F U E S
T U S I S S C A P
C O T T E O
B E A S T I N D I S C O R D
A R A I S E O N I
O R E K A L R V
G R I M A C E C O U R A G E
E E T R O Y C R
S T R A Y S E N S E L E S S

Quick Solution
Across: 1, Dorkings; 6, Quaker; 9, Fortnum; 10, Chiswick; 11, Exiles; 12, Ditcher; 13, Necker; 14, Foster; 15, Severn; 16, Sleep; 20, Maud; 21, 22, Louisa; 23, Fortunate; 24, Gorbals; 25, Minda; 26, Destroyed.
Down: 1, Defiant; 2, Christopher; 3, Lamouches; 4, Needled; 5, Sections; 6, Cravens; 7, Monte Carlo Rally; 8, Cardigan; 15, Struck; 17, Wunderbar; 18, Stromer; 19, Pliers; 20, Merges; 21, Expand.

DOLLAR PAZ AND EURO PAZ PRICES		FOR 11.12.84	
CURRENCY BASKET		PURCHASE	SALE
"DOLLAR PAZ" 1 UNIT		1810.8194	1833.4136
"EURO PAZ" 1 UNIT		1956.5677	1980.9805
S.D.R.		602.2369	609.7512

FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES		FOR 11.12.84	
COUNTRY	CURRENCY	CHEQUES AND TRANSACTIONS	BANKNOTES
		PURCHASE, SALE	PURCHASE, SALE

U.S.A.	DOLLAR	1	611.2864	618.9136	605.8700	627.4000
GREAT BRITAIN	STERLING	1	715.8163	724.7478	709.4700	734.6900
GERMANY	MARK	1	196.0822	198.5288	194.3400	201.2400
FRANCE	FRANC	1	63.9420	64.7399	61.1500	65.8300
HOLLAND	GULDEN	1	173.5130	175.6780	171.9700	178.0900
SWITZERLAND	FRANC	1	237.3006	240.2615	235.1900	243.5600
SWEDEN	KRONA	1	68.6221	69.4784	67.1200	70.4300
NORWAY	KRONE	1	67.7438	68.5891	66.2700	69.4500
DENMARK	KRONE	1	54.6816	55.3640	53.4900	56.1200
FINLAND	MARK	1	94.2107	95.3662	92.1600	96.6900
CANADA	DOLLAR	1	464.6798	470.4778	456.8700	476.8900
AUSTRALIA	DOLLAR	1	509.0659	515.4177	486.3900	527.0000
SOUTH AFRICA	RAND	1	313.4641	317.3753	294.0000	335.2400
BELGIUM	FRANC	10	97.7901	99.0103		
AUSTRIA	SCHILLING	10	278.8715	282.3511	276.4000	286.2300
ITALY	LIRE	1000	319.3763	323.3613	302.3000	327.6000
JAPAN	YEN	100	246.4864	249.5619	244.3000	252.9800

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THE JERUSALEM POST
 Ari Rath
 Editor and
 Managing Director
 Founded in 1932 by GERSHON AGRON, who was Editor until 1955. Editor 1955-1974
 TED LURIE, Editor 1974-1975. LEA BEN DOR, EDITORIAL OFFICES AND
 ADMINISTRATION The Jerusalem Post Building, Jerusalem P.O. Box 81
 (91000) Telephone 520181, Telex 26121, TEL. AVIV 11 Rehov Catebach, P.O. Box 20126
 (61207) Telephone 524222. HAIFA 16 Rehov Nordan, Hador Hacarmel, P.O. Box 4310
 (31047) Telephone 643444. Published daily, except Saturday, in Jerusalem, Israel by The
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After Nakoura

THE NAKOURA talks on the conditions for Israel's withdrawal from its present positions in Lebanon are in recess. The hopes that before this interruption terms of an agreement might be in sight have not been realized. The government, therefore, is confronted by the need to make decisions. Should the talks be given another chance, or should Israel now release itself from seemingly dead-end negotiations which the other side can prolong at will?

The choice is complex. For the sake of stability and security in southern Lebanon and along Israel's northern border, a negotiated and agreed withdrawal is certainly preferable. Through Unifil and other devices, agreement would provide mechanisms for self enforcement endorsed by all the parties. The absence of agreement would mean that the only arbiter of conflict is force.

This equation will hold true at whatever line Israel in the end chooses to dispose its troops. Thus, if there is no agreement, Israel will have to engage in a precise analysis of which line offers the most security in the north for the least cost.

Unfortunately such rational analysis has been muddled by large doses of demagoguery. The Likud ministers, fearing that departure from Lebanon would be tantamount to an indictment of the war, tend to make an Israeli military presence in Lebanon almost an item of ideology. They do not invoke the logic of risks vs costs, preferring to dwell only on the risks.

Since Israel's military presence in southern Lebanon has proved that the longer it stays there, the greater the costs, the Likud argumentation will, regrettably, be an obstacle in enabling the Cabinet to pursue a rational course of decision-making.

Such a course would dictate weighing the alternative lines open to Israel, including withdrawal to the international frontier, in terms of the possible need to re-employ Israeli military force to enforce security should that become mandatory. The present Awali line makes that constantly mandatory, simply to protect the security of our own troops, and only indirectly to protect the border. Moreover, the force that can be applied to protect the troops is limited, because of the constraints imposed by limited military occupation in a hostile civilian region, made ever more hostile by occupation itself.

Thus today we protect the northern border by deploying the army as a police force facing its harassers with its arms tied behind its back. No army and no nation can long sustain such a situation. And since Israel is not going to increase the scope of its occupation to change this circumstance, its only choice is contraction to a line where its military force will count the most.

Such a line cannot be one that still involves a major task of occupation. On the contrary, Israel's military force will count the most from that point in which its full potential - including air power - is an available and real threat. That line is either the international frontier or something very close to it.

This is what military logic, in the context of withdrawal without agreement, would dictate. It would reopen risks along the border. But it would also reinstate the full threat of Israel's full deterrent and retaliatory power.

In bad situations there are no good choices. But there is always the choice of not making the worst choices. Mr. Peres and Mr. Rabin must, therefore, ensure that those Likud ministers who would prolong the agony of Israel's present predicament in Lebanon, not deflect them from a rational course.

NOW THE schools have their much-debated autonomy, and one of the provisions is that the principal of each school has the right to set the dates for the beginning and end of the school year and may decide vacation dates. This authority is, of course, subject to consideration of legal holidays, be they religious or secular. But by and large, the principal of a school is now permitted to make some pretty drastic changes in the schedule under which the individual school operates, should he or she care to do so.

This being the case, one wonders if there exists, in the country's schools, one principal who will dare to try to bring some common sense and efficiency into the schedule of the school year.

Under the present and time-honoured system, pupils start school on September 1, and then come the High Holy Days, with schools closing for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur (often two days for each) and then for a whole week for Succot. Every pupil knows that the two or three weeks before the holidays are not taken seriously: little is accomplished in the classroom; and on top of it all, the temperature is still high.

DEMOCRACY in Israel is like the weather in England - everybody talks about it, and nobody seems to be doing anything about it. Democracy is much talked about because certain persons and bodies have found it opportune to re-emphasize anti-democratic values and principles in Judaism, which evolved hundreds of years ago to deal with circumstances that are no longer relevant. There are, thankfully, many rabbis who cherish democratic values, and they will have to contend with this problem on the basis of Halacha.

The more pressing manifestations of the problem are two in number. The first stems from the belief of many people that Israel's democratic system can't cope effectively with the horrendous difficulties facing the state, especially on the economic plane. People express doubt about whether democracy is, after all, something worth treasuring.

The most disconcerting aspect of this attitude is that those who should know better seem to believe that it is possible to have temporarily an enlightened dictator at the helm (everybody assumes that he will be enlightened), who will graciously give up his absolute powers after resolving Israel's urgent problems with a sweep of his magic wand.

The second manifestation of the problem is the apparent belief of many youngsters and adults that even if democracy is a desirable

system for the Jews in Israel, when it comes to dealing with the Arabs - whether inside the Green Line or in the occupied territories - other principles, which have nothing in common with democracy, should dictate Israel's conduct.

But is it really true that nobody is doing anything about the situation? In so far as "doing something" about democracy involves educational activities, then some people are indeed doing something, or at least are planning what to do.

The new Knesset Speaker, Shlomo Hillel, is in the process of setting up a national council, of academics and intellectuals on the one hand, and of representatives of the education establishment, the army and the media on the other, to make practical proposals as to how Israel's democratic roots can be strengthened.

THE MINISTRY of Education, especially since Yitzhak Navon be-

came minister, has been giving the subject much thought. Dr. Arik Karmon of Tel Aviv University, who was recently appointed to head a committee of experts to deal with democracy in the education system, says there are three spheres of activity for his committee. The first concerns immediate steps to combat the problem of Kahanism; the second concerns democracy as a central theme to be dealt with in the school system in the school years 1985/86 and 1986/87; and the third concerns long-term, comprehensive programmes on democracy, which would operate from kindergarten through 12th grade and on into the army.

In the meantime some individual schools have introduced their own programmes, though it seems that this is taking place in the kind of schools, such as the Reali School in Haifa and the high school run by the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, that are unlikely to produce enemies

to democracy. An additional framework of activity (and one in which I am actively involved) is that of various politically affiliated bodies, such as the Association for Labour Education or the Sharet Institute, which organize seminars in high schools in the form of lectures and films which are followed by discussions and games simulating real-life situations.

WHAT ALL these efforts aim to achieve is not to tell people that democracy is a perfect system of government, but to convince them that Winston Churchill knew what he was talking about when he said that parliamentary democracy is an imperfect form of government, but is nevertheless far superior to any other. It seems that most of the politically affiliated bodies currently engaged in "promoting" democracy are associated with the Labour Movement. Other politically affiliated bodies engaged in educational activities seem more concerned with promoting Judaism and love for Greater Israel. In terms of efforts to strengthen democracy, this situation is disturbing.

Youngsters are getting the impression that "democracy" is a vested interest of the Labour Movement, and if they happen to sympathize with the Likud, or parties to the Likud's right, they may conclude that if the Labour Movement is so interested in democracy, perhaps

democracy is somehow "unpatriotic." It seems to me that these educational activities would be much more effective if they were promoted jointly by members of the two major political camps, and especially by the Labour Party and Herut.

Though I believe that in the Herut Party today there is a danger of non-democratic forces gaining control (an idea shared by many a Herut member), I certainly do not regard Herut as a whole as an enemy of democracy, as many Labourites seem to do. Even those who were never fans of Menachem Begin's style and rhetoric must admit that in the '50s, when Mapai was inclined to ride rough-shod over democratic principles Herut's leader was one of the watch-dogs over those principles, at least in the formalistic sense.

Unfortunately Begin never chose to use his charismatic influence over his enthusiastic followers to teach them a lesson or two in democracy. He should have discouraged the chanting of "Begin King of Israel," pleasant as such chanting was to his ears. If Begin's successors could do something to make up for his lacuna, this would certainly constitute an important contribution to the present campaign.

I DISCUSSED this subject with Herut MKs Dan Meridor and Meir Shitrit, both of whom pointed out that, unfortunately, their party is not as well-endowed with educational bodies as the Labour Movement, and is therefore not equipped to carry out such activities.

Even if Herut had counterparts to the Labour-affiliated educational bodies, the latter presumably would be extremely wary of cooperating with ideological rivals. After all, the main purpose of these educational bodies is to increase the public's awareness of Labour's positions and of the differences between the political camps in Israel. But if cooperation on the subject of education for democracy is not possible on the institutional level, why not try to act on a personal basis? Why not establish teams of concerned Labourites and Likudniks to make the rounds of high schools throughout the country? This is one subject on which the broadest possible national consensus should not only exist but should be seen by everyone to exist.

Dr. Rofei is a freelance writer, researcher and lecturer. She is closely associated with the Labour Party.

HOLIDAY PROBLEM

By D'vora Ben Shaul

enough to make everyone think of swimming pools instead of studies.

By the time the school year settles down, there is a full week of Hanukkah vacation, then a couple of days for Purim and another extended vacation of more than two weeks at Pessah, not to mention Shavuot.

The main problem is that these week- or ten-day-long holidays are children's holidays, but most adults have to work. Therefore working parents must either find someone to look after the children all week, take time off from their own job to look after them or, as is even more common, bring them along to work with them.

So, every year, several times a

year, offices are flooded with mothers (and increasingly fathers) who are trying to work and amuse and occupy their young at the same time. While I strongly suspect that in a good many cases the children could probably take over the office and run it every bit as well as their parents do, the presence of so many unoccupied youngsters is certainly a deterrent to their parents' functioning. Even if children aren't physically present, they can destroy the smooth functioning of an office by what they consider to be necessary phone calls.

The cost to our floundering economy in lost work hours is staggering, and the problems facing parents who work and must also provide for

temporary child care are great. One really wonders if we can afford it.

CERTAINLY, if some enterprising principal takes this matter as a challenge, it will most likely be the head of a small school who knows that the parents would approve of innovation. In that case, he or she might decide to delay the opening of school until immediately after Succot, when the weather also does far less to distract the children from their studies. The principal would make the first and last days of Hanukkah school holidays, but the other days would be school as usual.

If one wished, this would be a good time to concentrate on some of the reinforced Jewish studies that are usually scattered through the curriculum. There would be two days holiday at Purim in places where the holiday is two days long, and one day elsewhere. Pessah would have a two-day holiday at its beginning and another two days at the end, but during the Pessah week the children would be in school, just as their parents are at work. Nor would a whole week of holiday for Shavuot be necessary. In the end the school year would end more or less

Democracy and the weather

By Susan Hattis Rolef

system for the Jews in Israel, when it comes to dealing with the Arabs - whether inside the Green Line or in the occupied territories - other principles, which have nothing in common with democracy, should dictate Israel's conduct.

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READERS LETTERS

THOUGHT PROVOKING

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - I want to express my admiration for the insight demonstrated by the authors of three articles in the November 30 edition. First, Pinhas Landau, writing about the lack of understanding in the government of "microeconomics," in "One factory at a time," really showed his understanding of a much larger problem - the overall deficiency in "creative thinking" in many government officials.

Second, Shulamit Aloni, in her article, "Decision based on ethics," demonstrated a keen insight into one of the most difficult problems facing the state of Israel, the problem of increasing the public understanding,

and appreciation of, democracy and justice.

Third, David Krivine, in his article, "Updating Halacha," touched on another fundamental problem in our society. This is the problem of how to cope with conflicts that arise between the laws of Halacha and what some citizens consider universal humanitarian values.

Each of the above articles could serve as beneficial educational material in classrooms throughout the country. I look forward to reading articles of similar quality in future editions of the paper.

CHAIM KAPLAN
 School of Education
 University of Haifa
 Haifa.

WHY DID SOVIET JEWS CHOOSE THE U.S.?

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - May I respond to the November 13 letter of Morey Schapiro and Lynn Singer of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews (to which I am a modest contributor).

Anyone knowledgeable in the history of Jewish emigration from the USSR cannot feign innocence as to why "so many choose resettlement elsewhere," rather than in Israel. One factor was the discovery by American paid professionals that their careers in various refugee organizations would thrive if they led Russian emigres to North America. The second was the interception of the emigres by ultra-Orthodox groups who have never accepted the state of Israel. (Of course, the bureaucratic nightmare that Israel is did not help either.)

While true refuseniks made aliyah, the bulk of Soviet Jewish emigres threw themselves into assimilationist America and live in communities with neither secular nor religious Jewish lifestyles.

Naturally, Jews should be free to live wherever they choose. But the real question is: should not the very limited public and private funds for Russian Jewry go to aid only those who opt for Israel?

KARL KAPLAN
 East Brunswick, New Jersey.

PENFRIENDS

DAVID B. BINGEL (21) of POB 343, Williams, Arizona 86046, U.S. would like to correspond with anyone willing to help him learn Hebrew.

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

The Programme of Canadian Studies
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 and
 Ralph and Roz Halbert, Toronto
 Cordially invites the public to a lecture on
Canada: The Impressions of an Israeli Ambassador
 to be given in Hebrew
 by
Mr. Y. ANUG
 (Former Israeli Ambassador to Canada)
 Sunday, December 23, 1984, 6.00 p.m.
 Maierdorf Faculty Club, Mount Scopus



POSTSCRIPTS

PS A RECENT TV programme attacking Soviet Jews that was broadcast recently in Leningrad has aroused concern among Jews in the free world who are concerned with the fate of Soviet Jewry.

The programme denounced a number of refuseniks, including Lev Shapiro, Yakov Gorodetsky, Leonid Kelbert, Yakov Rabinovich, Josef Radomysky, Aba Taratuta, Grigory Vasserman and Roald Zelichonok, who have been waiting a total of 53 years to emigrate to Israel.

The film concluded by calling on the Soviet people to "beware of the danger" posed by Zionism. It was reminiscent of the 1977 programme *Traders in Souls* in which Anatoly Shcharansky, Vladimir Slepak and other Jewish activists were described as "soldiers of Zionism." Most of those named in that film were arrested shortly after the programme was aired. Thus there are increased fears for the safety of those Jews featured in the new film *J.S.I.*

PS UNESCO, the UN Educational, Social and Cultural Organization, can hardly be accused of being pro-Jewish or pro-Israeli; they regularly attack Israel for archaeological digs in Jerusalem. But perhaps the organization has become penitent. Its executive council recently approved a proposal by the World Jewish Congress that the 850th anniversary of the birth of Maimonides be celebrated in 1985. The resolution, submitted by Spain - the native land of the great Jewish philosopher and physician - was unanimously approved.

The decision associates UNESCO with observance of the anniversary to be organized by interested governments and governmental organizations.

The WJC representative at last year's UNESCO conference suggested that observance of the anniversary of the birth of Maimonides - who contributed to the dialogue between cultures - could help foster Jewish-Muslim cultural dialogue today.

PS THE AMERICAN Association of Teachers of German (AATG) has publicly apologized for an advertisement for an anti-Semitic book which it says was "inadvertently accepted" for publication in the winter, 1984 edition of its periodical, *The German Quarterly*.

The AATG executive council, meeting recently in Chicago, unanimously adopted a resolution tightening procedures for accepting advertisements for the quarterly and declaring that it categorically repudiates and condemns the dissemination of material that is anti-Semitic or that can be construed as an apology for Nazism.

The advertisement that appeared in *The German Quarterly* was for a book published by the California-based Institute for Historical Review which specializes in disseminating propaganda that the Holocaust was a myth perpetrated by Jews to serve their own interests.

PS AN ARGENTINIAN military officer working in UN headquarters in Jerusalem's Armon Hanatziv quarter for years had been curious about the tree-planting he viewed regularly from his office window. Outside is the Jewish National Fund's Peace Forest, where tourists are taken to plant saplings. Finally going over to ask about goings-on, Lt.-Col. José Machur was enchanted by the idea. Now that he is about to return home, he asked JNF if he and his family could also plant trees. Accompanied by his wife and two daughters, the Machurs planted trees, reciting the prayer for tree planters handed out by the JNF. Observers said the Argentinians were very moved by the occasion.

J.S.I.
 Postscripts welcomes items from readers, especially anecdotes concerning the lighter side of life in Israel. Contributions must be accompanied by the writer's name, address, and identity-card number, and sent to: Postscripts, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Romema, Jerusalem 91000.



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